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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 208

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Rabauliman steps down as regent

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Rabauliman

Frank Rabauliman has stepped down from the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents. He also gave up his seat as board chair.

Rabauliman was a Board of Regents member during NMC president Carmen Fernandez's first term. Rabauliman was also one of the board members who voted to oust Fernandez during her first presidency.

Rabauliman submitted his resignation letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who is off-island.

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PARK VANDALISM
The back of the Saipan Katori Shrine at the Sugar King Park has been desecrated with graphic images. This comes at a time when the park will host the upcoming Japanese Autumn Festival on Oct. 22.
ERWIN ENCINARES

CCC turns back some junket operator applicants

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has returned some of the companies that applied as junket operators as they need to comply with a strict process that includes a lot of back checking before they could do business on the island.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. was granted the lone casino license on Saipan and is in the process of completing the multi-billion dollar Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort, which is expected to partially open in the first quarter of 2017. BSI, a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.,

See CCC on Page 4

DHS: Advance filing prevents unscrupulous employers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» DHS counsel says CUC's assertion that USCIS CW-1 regulation results to preferential treatment has no merit

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s assertion that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' rule requiring the filing of CNMI-only transitional workers visa (CW-1) extension petitions earlier than six months in advance of the requested worker's start date results in "preferential and unequal treatment" of visa petition beneficiaries is "without merit."

Office of Immigration Litigation assistant director Glenn M. Girdharry, counsel for Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and co-defendants in CUC's lawsuit, pointed out that USCIS' rule requiring all employer-petitioners to

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BUSINESS
Zombie banks and zombie companies are gnawing at Europe's weak economy.
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ASIA
This week's visit to China by President Duterte points toward a restoration of trust.
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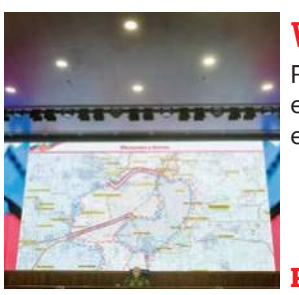

WORLD
Russian and Syrian forces will halt hostilities for eight hours in Aleppo.
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Local

Guam Weekly and CTSI Logistics Inc. join Håfa Adai Pledge

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New members proudly display their newly signed Håfa Adai Pledge certificates at the Guam Visitors Bureau on Friday, Oct.14, 2016. Josh Tyquiengco (public information officer, Guam Visitors Bureau), Francis Valencia (Guam Weekly, co-owner), Bertran "Bert" Palacios (Guam Weekly, co-owner), Sen. Tina Muna Barnes (33rd Guam Legislature and Tourism chair), Telo T. Taitague (Guam Visitors Bureau, vice president) and Nicole M. Andre (CTSI Logistics, Inc., HR & marketing manager).

The Guam Visitors Bureau welcomed its newest Håfa Adai Pledge members to the program—Guam Weekly and CTSI Logistics, Inc. on Friday, Oct. 14, 2016.

Guam Weekly is an Instagram account that displays the daily lives of individuals from Guam to the world. On its way to 10,000 followers, Guam Weekly has grown its network in just a year reaching audiences from Guam, Asia, Europe and more. Its ultimate goal of sharing how individuals from Guam live has grown into a positive way of showcasing Guam's beauty, people and culture. To learn and see more, visit www.instagram.com/guamweekly.

CTSI Logistics, Inc., honored to have called Guam home for the past 27 years, is a logistics provider with expertise in contract logistics, warehousing, trucking, international freight forwarding, relocation and Guam's specialized markets. The company has over 22 stations placed in 12 different countries across the world. Considered as the hub of Micronesia, CTSI Logistics Guam believes in going beyond corporate giving and donations as a way of giving back and cultivating our relationships. It strives to promote cultural awareness through the simple "Håfa Adai" spirit and genuine hospitality in its services throughout Micronesia

» New members uniquely spread the Håfa Adai Spirit across the world

See GUAM on Page 4

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live off-island guest performers and ukulele workshop at JKPL

Off-island guest performers JazzoomCafe from Japan and Blues Lee from Korea will be performing live at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this Friday, Oct. 21, 2016, from 4pm to 4:30pm. We would like to invite all ukulele enthusiasts and the public to visit JKPL and listen to these two awesome guest performers. They will also conduct a ukulele workshop on this day, so bring your ukuleles! Don't miss out, come visit! For more information, contact (670) 235-7322/7323. ***(PR)***

MHS PTA meeting set

Marianas High School will be holding its PTA meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2016, at the school counseling office, starting at 6pm. ***(PR)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Oct. 7-9 from midnight to 11:55pm
- Oct. 6 from 8am to 1:30pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(JRM)***

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Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Camacho: Since '14, only 15 cases were appealed and high court issued 6

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho stated yesterday that since 2014, only 15 of the cases he has handled have been appealed and that the CNMI Supreme Court has issued only six out of those.

Camacho said the six cases are categorized as "other" because they involved procedural matters outside the merits of the case.

Camacho said four Supreme Court opinions upheld his rulings and one was voluntarily dismissed by the parties.

» Of 4 judges, Camacho handles most cases, trials

The judge also pointed out that of the cases that went to trial and parties appealed, the Supreme Court has not issued any opinion.

As of 2014, Camacho conducted 14 jury trials and 31 bench trials, for a total of 45 trials.

The judge disclosed the results and status of the cases that were appealed in his response to the Office of the Attorney General's evaluation on the criminal appellate record—that of the 14 times the Supreme Court reviewed his rulings, the high court reversed or vacated his decision-making 12 times.

According to OAG's evaluation, provided to *Saipan Tribune* on Monday, since June

See CAMACHO on Page 4

CNMI govt settles Neal's discrimination lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has reached an irrevocable settlement with former acting prosecutor Shelli Neal in connection with her discrimination lawsuit filed in federal court against the Commonwealth.

Neal, through counsel Daniel T. Guidotti, dismissed her case and all claims, with prejudice. Dismissal with prejudice means Neal can no longer refile the lawsuit.

Guidotti, however, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to retain jurisdiction over the case to enforce the irrevocable settlement.

Each party is to bear its own attorney's fees and costs.

At a settlement conference before Senior Judge Alex R. Munson last Oct. 11, Guidotti and CNMI government lawyers Lillian Tenorio and Christopher Timmons informed the court that they have reached irrevocable settlement.

The government settled without admitting any fault, liability, or wrongdoing. The settlement deal was filed under seal.

Neal filed the original lawsuit in December 2015. She named the Office of the Attorney General as defendant in the case.

Neal alleged, among other things, that male prosecutors revealed confidential information to opposing lawyers regarding her cases in an effort to sabotage the cases and results.

Last July, Neal filed a second amended complaint, naming only the CNMI government as the defendant.

Neal asked the court to hold the CNMI government liable to pay her back pay and other relief necessary to eradicate the effects of the Commonwealth's alleged unlawful practices.

She requested the court to find the government liable to pay her damages to exceed $25,000. She also wants to be reinstated to her previous position as chief prosecutor.

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2 Offer applies to new FHB Business Online customers who enroll by 10/31/16. Offer does not apply to Online Payment service or access through Quicken® or QuickBooks.® After six (6) months, standard FHB Business Online fees apply. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online Services for more information. You must have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile.

Asia Pop 40 goes to air in Guam

Asia Pop 40 is now on air in Guam after Choice Broadcasting LLC's new Star

101FM station began broadcasting the three-hour weekly-syndicated chart show last weekend.

AP40 launched across Guam on Saturday, Oct. 15, and will air weekly on Saturdays from 11am-2pm and repeated on Sundays at 7pm to 10pm.

Choice Broadcasting's managing partner, Ray Gibson, said, "We see the potential of Asia Pop 40 as a show that will be very much liked by our audience. Across Guam, we have a significant younger audience and we believe Asia Pop 40 will be enjoyed by all here in Guam. We want to air a show that is a proven success for our new launch and the ratings results in other markets prove that Asia Pop 40 has struck the right chord with Asian music lovers."

Asia Pop 40 is hosted by media celebrity Dom Lau. The program is Asia's first locally-produced chart countdown radio program and also the first syndicated Asian-produced radio show. It currently airs in over 40 markets across Southeast Asia and China in both English and Mandarin.

Singapore's EON Media Group produces Asia Pop 40. CEO and executive producer Rob Graham said, "We are thrilled that AP40 can now be heard in Guam on Star 101. This is our first step into U.S. territory, so it's a very exciting moment for us."

The Asia Pop 40 chart is compiled using Asian chart data provided exclusively by iTunes, which can be seen at www.asiapop40.com. ***(PR)***

Suspected 'ice' trafficker arrested

A joint investigation conducted by the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration led to the arrest over the weekend of a suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Guang Giu Wu, 37, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance. His bail was set at $100,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Oct. 25 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Wu. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Task force member George Fleming David stated in his report that they met last Oct. 10 with a confidential defendant, who disclosed that he/she was able to purchase "ice" from Wu several times in the past.

That same night, David said they arranged a "controlled buy operation" against Wu using the confidential defendant.

David said during the operation, the confidential defendant went to the residence of Wu in Koblerville. Wu came out from his house and then handed a small amount of "ice" to the confidential defendant.

The confidential defendant told Wu that he was not buying $60, but $660.

Wu went back inside then approached the confidential defendant's car and handed more "ice."

David said a field test on the substance involved in the deal was presumptive positive for methamphetamine. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DHS

From Page 1

file CW-1 extension petitions no earlier than six months in advance of the requested start date is based on a reasonably conceivable state of facts that provides a rational basis for the agency's rule.

Girdharry said CUC and its affected CW-1 workers cannot plausibly argue that they can negate every conceivable state of facts that could provide the rational basis for USCIS' "six-month in advance" filing rule.

Girdharry discussed the matter in Johnson's and co-defendants' reply brief in support of their motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by CUC and its affected CW-1 workers.

Girdharry said requiring employer-petitioners to file extension requests no earlier than six months before the requested start date of the alien worker provides a reasonable time for the employer to determine that no U.S. worker is available for intended position, thereby upholding the integrity of this domestic job market check before introducing foreign labor.

Additionally, Girdharry said, as CW-1 visas are limited each fiscal year, the six-month period helps prevent unscrupulous employers from obtaining a CW-1 visa number and "shelving" the approval significantly before they face an actual need for the services of a CW-1 worker (thereby precluding other petitioners from obtaining that visa number).

Further, he said, USCIS encourages employers to file extension requests six months in advance and "as soon as possible within that time frame to prevent gaps in employment authorization."

Finally, Girdharry said, as processing of all CW-1 petitions occur at a USCIS Service Center in the continental U.S., filing six months in advance allows ample time for employers in the CNMI to use economic delivery methods to send extension petitions to USCIS for the agency to process and adjudicate the incoming petition, and if it is approved, return the approval notice via U.S. mail to the employer.

Accordingly, he said, plaintiffs fail to state a claim for relief under the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Therefore, he said, the court should dismiss the plaintiffs' equal protection claim in its entirety.

Girdharry also asserted that the DHS Secretary's discretionary authority to reduce the number of CW-1 workers in the CNMI to zero by the end of the CW-1 transition period is derived from statute, not regulations.

From the start of this litigation, defendants have maintained that the DHS secretary's discretionary authority is derived from statute, not regulations, Girdharry said.

He said Congress has explicitly charged the DHS Secretary with the administration and enforcement of all laws relating to immigration and naturalization of aliens, and gave the secretary broad discretion to regulate the employment of CW-1 nonimmigrant workers during the transition period in the CNMI.

Girdharry said USCIS did not deprive CUC and its affected CW-1 workers of any due process rights because the agency complied with its regulations and applied the correct procedures to the CW-1 extension petitions CUC submitted after the fiscal year 2016 visa cap had been reached.

In opposition to Johnson's and co-defendants' motion to dismiss the lawsuit, CUC has stated that USCIS' regulation and policy on the CW-1 have resulted in an unequal and preferential treatment.

CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok pointed out that the manner in which CUC is restricted in filing its renewal petitions for its 13 CW-1 workers results in unequal treatment of it and its petitions, as well as the individual workers.

Sirok said this is because those CW-1 petitions, which can be filed during the beginning of a fiscal year, will not be affected when the CW-1 cap number is reached during the middle or ending months of a fiscal year as will CUC's petitions.

USCIS regulation restricts the filing of a CW-1 petition to no earlier than six months prior to the expiration of the CW-1 status or prior to the actual need for the beneficiary's services in the case of a new hire.

As a result of the preferential treatment, because of the filing restriction rule, CUC and its affected CW-1 workers were treated unequally, Sirok said.

CUC employs over 300 workers, including 42 nonresident workers. They are suing Johnson and others for not acting on their CW-1 permit renewals.

Aside from Johnson, plaintiffs are also suing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah R. Saldan, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez.

Sirok alleged that the failure of USCIS to make a determination on the CW renewal petitions violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

Sirok said CUC will be adversely affected by the loss of these CW-1 workers in its ability to maintain and operate its power generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CCC

From Page 1

is currently operating a temporary casino at the T Galleria Saipan.

Junket operators usually have their own agents whose primary job is to select VIP patrons and other wealthy gamers to play in the casino they have business with. VIPs are offered various perks like free accommodation and transportation or experience the things where the casino is located.

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said they are still going through the vetting process and the background checks before they could issue another provisional license for an applicant. Big Bang Entertainment, whose clients are from Korea and Japan, remains the only junket operator that they have approved to deal with BSI.

"There remains one junket operator that we approved while the other applicants are still under review on the procedure that we have implemented. We are still going through with the vetting process," said Deleon Guerrero after last Monday's board meeting at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library video teleconference room.

"We have 17 other applicants but we took some of them and we turn them back. There are certain areas that they are missing and have not yet completed or complied with. Some of them have re-submitted their applications," he said.

He said that BSI-IPI officials are also involved in the same process in what they do regarding their VIP players. "Before they issue the credit they are going to do their credit checks, world wealth checks, and litigation checks to see if they have been litigated."

"What we did is utilize the process for the junket applicants. When they are satisfied that this individual is credit worthy, then that is only how they would allow credit for the VIP player," added Deleon Guerrero.

CCC will then complete the process once BSI finds the applicant credit worthy. "If they feel that this applicant is credit worthy, then they will issue a letter of intent that they wanted to do business with them as a junket operator," said Deleon Guerrero.

He said the different checks the commission does begin from the time they receive the application. "But after we get the letter of intent that will be the time in which we assess an investigative fee."

"The commission reserves the right to issue a provisional license as the background checks continue. We did the same process before approving Big Bang. If the licensee determines that they are not going to do business with the operator, then the commission will cease any further review of the their application."

REGENT

From Page 1

In his resignation, Rabauliman stated that, "It has been a very fulfilling experience to serve the students and work with very dedicated individuals."

Rabauliman explained that although he is resigning from his position as a member of the Board of Regents, he is still dedicated to the improvement of the community college.

"Having served on the board for more than seven years, it's time for a new chapter for me," he said. "I remain committed to the mission of the college and will continue to support the institution in other ways."

NMC board member Elaine Orilla becomes acting chair

"Regent Rabauliman's passion for our students, his commitment to the advancement of higher education in the Marianas, and his dedication to NMC employees has helped the Ccollege to grow as it continues to meet the educational needs of the CNMI," she said.

"Although we will miss him from the Board of Regents, we wish him well as he continues to help the CNMI in other capacities."

Orilla is already looking into the future with or without Rabauliman.

"We will continue to look forward to his support and partnership as the college works to meet workforce needs and expand educational opportunities for all students," she said.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez expressed her gratitude for Rabauliman's accomplishments.

"Regent Rabauliman has been a strong advocate of the Northern Marianas College," she said. "He cares deeply for the students and the employees. We are very grateful for his accomplishments over the past several years and thank him for his service."

CAMACHO

From Page 3

25, 2014, the high court decided 29 criminal cases and that 14 of those were Camacho's cases.

The evaluation also showed that of the 29 criminal cases, the high court reversed or otherwise vacated all or a portion of any Superior Court judge's decision 17 times.

The OAG evaluates the criminal appellate record of judges who are up for retention on the bench. Camacho is seeking retention this Nov. 8 election.

Asked for comment about OAG's evaluation, Camacho said the parties to a case have a right to appeal their case. When a party exercises his/her right to do so, there is no negative connotation.

"It just means that they are exercising their right to appeal. That is our system of law. Appeals may take several months to be resolved," he said.

At present, of the four judges, Camacho handles the most cases such as all on Rota, half of the cases on Tinian, and his share of criminal and civil cases on Saipan. In addition, he also handles traffic cases and probate court.

Camacho also presides over the most number of trials.

Camacho said statistically, the more cases a judge handles means that numerically the number of cases appealed also increases.

GUAM

From Page 2

and Asia.

The Håfa Adai Pledge program is the cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding campaign. In its seventh year, the Håfa Adai Pledge program has grown steadily in the number of participants as well as the commitment of individual pledges. In March of 2016, GVB reached a significant milestone, welcoming its 600th pledge, representing more than 32,500 individuals from private businesses, government agencies, non-profits and other organizations that have joined the Håfa Adai Pledge program. ***(GVB)***

Frank Cable officer wins Individual Safety Award

SANTA RITA, Guam— The National Safety Council named its "Top 40 Under 40" Rising Stars of Safety, and one of the top honorees is a naval officer stationed aboard USS *Frank Cable*, homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam.

Lt. Malia Gonzalez was selected by the NSC as one of the 2016 Rising Stars of Safety, beating out more than 100 other nominees from every industry throughout the United States.

The award recognized her work as the safety officer while assigned to *Frank Cable* and specifically for her contributions to safety from April 2015 to present.

"I was proud to hear Lt. Gonzalez was recognized by the NSC as a winner of the 'Top 40 Under 40' Rising Stars," said Rear Adm. Frederick Roegge, commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet. "This recognition reflects very positively on Malia as a naval officer and provides positive exposure to the Navy as a leader in safety."

The NSC formally announced the members of this elite group in the October 2016 issue of *Safety+Health* magazine, the official magazine of NSC Congress & Expo.

The NSC plans to recognize the "Top 40 Under 40" winners during their Congress & Expo next week in Anaheim, California, and each honoree will be presented their award during the National Award Celebration Reception on Oct. 18. Gonzalez, who is currently deployed, will receive her award at a later date.

Gonzalez established a safety culture on *Frank Cable* and actively engages her peers to ensure all programs are evaluated on a routine basis. Her efforts resulted in zero on-duty class "A" and class "B" mishaps and no lost man-hours or limited duty days resulting from on-duty mishaps while completing the mission over the past year.

"Protecting our people and assets by managing risk is paramount," said Roegge.

Gonzalez's leadership in the safety program aboard *Frank Cable* was responsible for a 62 percent reduction in safety mishaps and an 87 percent reduction in safety discrepancies over the past year. Her strategic planning ensured her command adhered to all safety requirements and maintained the highest safety standards while executing the mission as evidenced by the completion of seven Continuous Maintenance Availabilities, 55 Voyage Repair Availabilities, 17 Remote-Site Fly-Away teams tasking, encompassing over 2,965 jobs and totaling over 345,000 production man-hours of quality maintenance onboard submarines and surface ships throughout the Pacific theater.

"My ultimate goal is to ensure that every sailor, mariner, and contractor goes home every day in the same condition in which they arrived," said Gonzalez. "It is my moral obligation to ensure a safe and healthy work environment for all personnel working on USS *Frank Cable*. A good safety attitude and safety behavior is vital to the success of our safety programs on board."

Gonzalez's dedication to ensuring safety on board *Frank Cable* largely contributing to her ship's selection for the fiscal year 2015 Secretary of the Navy Safety Excellence Award, which was presented by Under Secretary of the Navy Dr. Janine Davidson at a ceremony at the Pentagon in August.

Frank Cable is one of two forward-deployed submarine tenders and is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to conduct maintenance and support deployed U.S. naval force submarines and surface vessels in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tender USS *Emory S. Land* and four Los Angeles-class attack submarines assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 15. The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. For more information on the USS *Frank Cable*, visit http://www.facebook.com/FrankCableAS40, or http://www.csp.navy.mil/frankcable.

For more news from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, visit http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15 and https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15/.

Thinking of being stationed in Guam? Check out http://www.csp.navy.mil/go-guam/ for more information. ***(Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 Public Affairs)***

NMC hosts Student Success seminar

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
michaeljan.t.santos@gmail.com
REPORTER

MICHAEL SANTOS

Extension aide Rose Castro gives a presentation to college students on Oct. 18, 2016.

The Northern Marianas College hosted another Student Success Series on Oct. 18, 2016, this time with the topic, "Balancing Your Health & Wellness."

The Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service hosted the seminar, with extension aides Jesse Deleon Guerrero and Rose Castro doing the presentation.

"We want to help educate them [students] about eating healthy, being physically active, and knowing that there are certain kinds of services we provide for free to them in case they need it," Deleon Guerrero said. "We help these college students knowing they are very busy throughout their schedules so that is why we also introduce a simple recipe for them to learn that is easy to make, not only for them, but also for their family."

Deleon Guerrero said the success series tends to be more frequent in certain months but occurs throughout the entire school year. "We've been doing this [success series] every semester with our department, CREES, and rotate, depending on the topic, with Ms. Theresa."

The success series is generally managed by the counselor's office in NMC under counselors Theresa Worswick and Joan Torres.

One attendee, Isaac Tenorio, said, "I thought it was pretty useful. To be honest, this was my first time attending but I really feel like I can use what I learned in my daily life."

CREES would also like to extend invitations to their Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program for free classes and it is open not only to students but to every resident of the CNMI.

The EFNEP is composed of nutrition education lessons that help youth and families with young children learn about food, and how to get more for their money at the grocery store. Some of the things they teach include making healthy choices for the whole family, preparing delicious and safe food, and making money and food stamps go further.

For more information, contact Rose Castro at rose.castro@marianas.edu, Jesse Deleon Guerrero at jesse.deleonguerrero@marianas.edu, or call (670) 237-6841.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

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MORATORIUM NOTICE
on

N.M.I. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 80 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, SUB-CHAPTER 80-20.1 EMPLOYMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS § 80-20.1-210 (C) (3) Exemptions from Workforce Participation § 80-20.1-215 (b) Particular Construction Project. Exemptions issued prior to this notice remains in effect until their expiration date.

This moratorium notice shall be in effect until such time that the CNMI Secretary of Labor publishes a new notice on this matter.

Good Samaritan Hospital and Marianas Medical Center is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on island November 3-5, 2016.

For more information, referrals and/or appointments, please contact your physician or Marianas Medical Center at (670) 234-3926/27/28

Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam office bringing cardiovascular care excellence to the CNMI.

Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC
Cardiology
Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office

As a leader in cardiology, he depends on Good Samaritan Hospital to deliver the premier technology and resources he needs.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-001

Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Dated: October 14, 2016

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying prospective Offerors of the following amendments to CUC-RFP-17-001:

➢ **EXTENSION OF PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:**

The Pre-proposal conference schedule date has been extended from October 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to ***October 31, 2016*** *at 10:00 AM (ChST).*

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 31, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

➢ **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION:**

The deadline for submission of questions or requests for clarification has been extended from October 20, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to ***November 3, 2016*** *at 10:00 AM (ChST).*

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 3, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

➢ **DEADLINE FOR BID SUBMISSION:**

The deadline for bid submission has been extended from November 9, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to ***November 30, 2016*** *at 10:00 AM (ChST).*

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-001 – Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All other terms and conditions in the Specification/Scope of Work, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-001

Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) from which CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's power supply requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-001 – Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 9, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 20, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Judge denies a request to modify bail pending man's resentencing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio has denied the request to modify the bail of Jing Song Lin, a 52-year-old store owner who pleaded guilty to the charge that he inappropriately touched a 13-year-old girl in 2012.

In an order last week, Kim-Tenorio said she recognizes that Lin has been a resident of the CNMI for over 20 years but she is not convinced that he does not pose a flight risk.

She noted, though, that nothing in that statement reassures the court that a defendant who has already been found guilty, is awaiting sentencing and subsequently facing deportation will not succumb to the temptation to flee the CNMI.

Moreover, Kim-Tenorio said, the fact that Lin is a man of means further supports the idea the idea that he might be a flight risk.

The judge said while defendant's motion states a lack financial wealth to abscond from the Commonwealth, his ability to make alternate living arrangements and borrow $15,000 for bail—even though he has been imprisoned for the last two years –suggests otherwise.

Lastly, Kim-Tenorio said, even if Lin does not have the financial wealth to flee the CNMI, there is no condition of release that would prevent him from accessing substantial funds through his business and personal contacts.

Second, Kim-Tenorio said, she is not convinced that Lin does not pose a danger to the community.

Here, the judge noted, Lin pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree.

Specifically, she said, Lin admitted to making inappropriate sexual comments to a 13-year-old girl, sticking his hand down her shirt, grabbing her breast, and touching her buttocks in broad daylight.

Kim-Tenorio

These action, the judge said, exhibit a bold, depraved, and opportunistic character that in and of itself poses a danger to this community and the fragile youth.

Moreover, Kim-Tenorio said, in considering the danger Lin poses to the community, the court cannot ignore the threat his release places on the victim's mental, physical and emotional well-being.

According to the Commonwealth, the victim continues to suffer trauma and the victim's father is willing to testify against Lin's release.

Lastly, Kim-Tenorio addressed defense counsel Robert Tenorio's concerns regarding access to Lin to prepare for sentencing.

The judge said she acknowledges counsel's concerns; however, there is nothing that prohibits the counsel's ability to confer with Lin at the Department of Corrections.

Kim-Tenorio ordered the Office of Adult Probation to prepare an expedited presentence investigation report to be due no later than Nov. 25, 2016.

Kim-Tenorio set Lin's resentencing for Dec. 6, 2016 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government.

According to court records, police arrested Lin in July 2012. The court then imposed a $60,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

On Oct. 13, 2013, Lin pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree. Pursuant to the plea agreement, the government dismissed the charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and sexual assault in the second degree.

The matter was subsequently assigned to Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for sentencing. On March 28, 2014, Camacho imposed the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo later entered her appearance as counsel for Lin. Camacho recused himself from the case as Alepuyo is his wife.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja reassigned the matter to Kim-Tenorio.

Last July, Lin, through Alepuyo, moved for reduction of sentence, arguing that the court failed to provide specific findings how the maximum sentence imposed would serve the interests of justice.

Alepuyo cited several factors such as the financial and emotional hardship on Lin's family, his remorse and acceptance of responsibility, his payment of $80,000 to the victim's family to settle a civil lawsuit, and the girl's father's subsequent lack of opposition to leniency.

Ultimately, Kim-Tenorio denied Lin's motion for reduction of sentence.

Lin then appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. The high court concluded that the sentencing court's decision was an abuse of discretion for lack of sufficient individualization and failure to explain why the extended restriction on Lin's parole eligibility is warranted.

The high court vacated the sentencing court's sentence and remanded this matter for resentencing.

Last Oct. 6, Lin, through Torres, moved the court to modify his bail condition and grant his release to a third-party custodian, his wife, upon posting of a supplemental cash appearance bond of $15,000 pending resentencing.

The government opposed the motion.

Scheduled power interruption today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption today, Oct. 19, from 4:30am to 7:30am to de-energize the primary lines to allow CUC line crew to safely replace rusted hardware and install a cross arm across of Dollar Days store.

This is part of ongoing systems maintenance throughout the island to address deficiencies on the electrical distribution grid.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected are Feeder 2 (last partial): Garapan Beach Road (Tony Roma's South to Bank Pacific) Orchid St., Hibiscus St., Alaihai Ave., Puti Tainobiu, Filooris Ave., Bukki Ave., Kalchuchan Ave., Lirio St., Flores Rosa, Leston St., Amor St., Kadena I, Mapola St., Dama Di Noche St., Bougainvilla Ave., Dracaena St., Oleander St., Labayeros, and Fishing Base St.

This will also affect the S4 sewer lift station and the traffic light in front of the Bank of Guam.

CUC has also scheduled a power interruption on Oct. 22, from 6am to 11am to de-energize the primary lines to allow CUC line crew to safely replac power poles and install new primary wires. Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected are Feeder 1: Garapan Streeet, Oceanview Hotel, Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, Alaihai Ave., Puti Tainobiu Ave., and Filooris Ave.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes or to excise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor their Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Amnesty: Nauru won't investigate crimes against refugees

By ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Authorities failed to adequately investigate complaints of violent crimes committed against asylum seekers held at Australia's expense on the Pacific atoll nation of Nauru, Amnesty International said Monday.

The London-based human rights group found in an investigation that it appeared that no Nauruan had been held to account despite allegations of dozens of sexual assaults and physical attacks from 1,159 asylum seekers and refugees who live among 10,000 local residents on the tiny island.

"According to confidential information provided to Amnesty International in September 2016, in the preceding two years there had not been a single prosecution involving refugees or asylum seekers as complainants in cases of assault, rape and theft," the report said.

Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection said the report repeated claims that had already been refuted. It said Amnesty International had failed to approach the Australian government to verify its allegations.

Australia attempts to deter asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia from trying to reach Australian shores by boat from Indonesian ports by sending them to immigration camps at Nauru or Papua New Guinea. Genuine refugees among them are told they will never be resettled in Australia.

The Guardian newspaper in August published more than 2,000 leaked incident reports from Nauru that included allegations of sexual abuse, assaults and self-harm among asylum seekers. The incidents were logged by the Save the Children charity between May 2013 and October last year.

Australian Federal Police Acting Deputy Commissioner Justine Saunders told a routine Senate inquiry on Monday that 14 of those incidents had been referred to Nauru police for investigation and one Nauruan had been charged with assault.

Nine investigations were closed due to insufficient evidence, one complaint was withdrawn and two investigations remained open, she said.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin told the same Senate committee he was confident Nauru police had the capability and intent to properly investigate such incidents.

Immigration Department Secretary Michael Pezzullo visited Nauru last week and told the committee that three charges involving asylum-seeker victims were before the court. He did not detail those allegations.

Man hurt after girlfriend allegedly beat him up

An allegedly intoxicated woman punched and hit her boyfriend with a set of keys outside her house in San Vicente early Sunday morning, causing a laceration on his right eyebrow.

Mary Kelly Alfred, 45, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim was taken by paramedics to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment of three to four-centimeter laceration on the eyebrow, police said.

At a hearing on Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $10,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Oct. 24 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Alfred. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Police detective John Anthony Hofschneider stated in his report that investigation showed that prior to the incident, the victim was sleeping in the passenger seat of a car outside the house of his girlfriend on Sunday.

Alfred, who was drinking beer with her mother outside the house, later called her boyfriend twice at 1:50am. The boyfriend did not answer.

Alfred then opened the passenger side door of the car, threw a pillow at him, and told him he was the reason why her mother is not at the house.

When the boyfriend got down, Alfred allegedly punched him twice on the head and then swung a set of keys at his right eyebrow.

Alfred yelled at her boyfriend to leave because she does not want him. The boyfriend carried his box of belongings and walked down from the house. He then called 911. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NEW HIGH TUNNEL GREENHOUSE ECLOSURES FOR DLNR, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE KAGMAN II, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of New High Tunnel Greenhouse Enclosures for DLNR, Division of Agriculture Kagman, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 5, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor.
- ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order.
- ***Contingent fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 25, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 7, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-001"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 17, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 17, 2016,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 17, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **November 28, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 30, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on November 17, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-003

DRIVE WAY ROAD IMPROVEMENT GAOGAO KAGMAN, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Drive Way Road Improvement Gaogao Kagman, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 12, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- ***Contingent fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 28, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 7, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-003"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 9, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 9, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 9, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **November 21, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 25, 2016**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on November 9, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-002

CONSULTANCY SERVICES, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX ENGINE SYSTEMS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the oversight and management of Supply and Installation of Six (6) Engine Systems, 8-10 MW/Each, at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy and construction management requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-002 – Consultancy Services, Supply and Installation of Six Engine Systems"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business

license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-003

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE CUC'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AND CUC'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to update the CUC Rules and Regulations and CUC's Policies and Procedures Manual.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy requirements.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **October 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, proposers shall familiarize themselves with the current CUC Rules and Regulations and the CUC Policies and Procedures Manual prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP-17-003 – Professional Services to Update CUC's Rules and Regulations and CUC's Policies and Procedures Manual"* to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive offerors.

All offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 24, 2016,** to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Candidates' forum today

Residents of Precinct 3 and the wider community will have an opportunity to hear directly from Precinct 3 candidates today, Oct. 19.

The Marianas Young Professionals, or MYPros, is hosting two free, non-partisan candidate forums to provide professionals of all ages with an opportunity to learn about and compare candidate positions on public issues in a neutral setting.

The non-partisan candidate forum for Precinct 3 candidates will be held today, Oct. 19, from 5:30pm to 9pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center. The non-partisan senatorial candidate forum will be held the following week on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 5:30pm to 9pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The moderators for this week's forum events are MYPros members and local attorney's Tiberius Mocanu and Michael Sato. Mocanu is in private practice on island and has formerly worked for the Office of the Attorney General as a prosecutor in both the criminal and civil divisions. He has also worked at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI Public School System. He has appeared many times in the CNMI Legislature and has advised numerous governmental agencies on public policy and legislation. Sato is an attorney for the CNMI Office of the Public Defender. He is currently the head of appellate litigation, and has argued eight appeals before the CNMI Supreme Court. A graduate of the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Sato worked as an attorney for the Missouri State Public Defenders before moving to Saipan in 2013. He previously hosted a talk show discussing current events for 91.1 WDUB in central Ohio.

Doors will open at 4pm with the forums to begin promptly at 5:30pm. You do not have be a MYPros member or young professional to participate. The forums are free and open to the public. All are welcome.

"In line with our mission, MYPros hopes these candidate forums will engage and encourage young professionals to become more active and informed," said Nola K. Hix, MYPros vice president.

Known as the economic/financial hub of Saipan, Precinct 3 covers Garapan, Oleai, and part of Mt. Tapochau. Precinct 3 also has the most number of candidates of all precincts.

Those invited to attend the forum are: Rep. Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez (Independent); Francisco Santos Dela Cruz (Republican); Rep. Ralph Naraja Yumul (Independent); Vicente Castro Camacho (Independent); Heinz Sablan Hofschneider (Independent); Rep. Blas Jonathan BJ Attao (Independent); Ivan Alafanso Blanco (Republican); Donald Cabrera Barcinas (Republican); Jose Ilo Itibus (Republican); Rep. Anthony Tenorio Benavente (Independent); House minority leader Ramon Angailen Tebuteb (Independent); and Stanley Estanislao Tudela McGinnis Torres (Independent).

The public is also invited to the "Meet the Candidates" for an after-party at Naked Fish following the forums. Admission is $10 and includes a free drink with pupus while supplies last.

Get entered to win awesome raffle prizes where funds will go towards the MYPros Community Projects Committee.

For more information, or to contribute questions for the candidates, email mypros.670@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Taiwan agents inspect NMI

MVA

Taiwan CEO travel agents touring Saipan pay a courtesy call at the Marianas Visitors Authority office and are welcomed by MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, sixth left, in September 2016.

As part of its continued marketing work in Taiwan, the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted a CEO agent inspection familiarization tour on Saipan in September 2016, to inspect sites, rooms, and activities.

Through its Taiwan office, the MVA arranged a group of CEO's representing travel trade agents Hana Tour, Dadova Tour, ET TOURS, U Plan Travel, Best Tour, Giant Tour, and Dynamic Airways Taiwan. The participating agencies specialize in promoting island destinations in the Taiwan market.

On Saipan, the group visited Managaha, Garapan Street Market, DFS, I Love Saipan store, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and the scenic sites of Mt. Tapochau, Grotto, Marpi, San Juan Beach, Banzai Cliff, and Kilili Beach Park. They also inspected Hyatt Regency, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort and Kensington Hotel.

"We were pleased to welcome Taiwanese CEO's who are experienced in selling the types of leisure products that Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have to offer," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "It was great to hear the highly appreciated feedback that these professional agents loved the outstanding pristine, natural environment, and friendly hospitality of the Northern Marianas."

The group was accompanied by MVA's Taiwan country manager Milane Tsai during their tour, which was also supported by Asiana Airlines, Best Sunshine International Ltd., Hana Tour, and DFS. ***(MVA)***

EAGI seeks to complete public hearing on Torres appointees

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation resumed its public hearings at 1:30pm Monday at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill. The hearing allows members of the community to voice their support or opposition to some of the appointees of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Monday's hearing was for Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero for his appointment as a member of the Marianas Public Lands Trust board. Last week, the committee entertained public comments for Roman M. Tudela Jr. and Donald M. Hofschneider.

Tudela Jr. is being appointed as director of the Indigenous Affairs Office while Hofschneider is nominated as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Committee chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) said they plan to finish the public hearings so they could make a report to the Senate before the session today. Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) is the vice chair with Sens. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), and Teresita Santos (R-Rota) as members.

"The public hearings give members of the community the opportunity to testify on some of the appointees by the governor. Whether or not they support. We're going to base our findings on the information that we gathered and what was given to the committee according to the rules of the Senate," said Cruz.

"It is important to have different views on the appointees. We want to see if there are people who would oppose or support the governor's appointees and we take into consideration their comments. We compare what the public said, whether they oppose or support, and that is one of the determining factor," added Cruz.

All nominees or appointed by the governor must submit to the committee, with the whole Senate voting to confirm or not.

Cruz said that based in last week's public comments he sees no reason why Tudela and Hofschneider would not get past the committee level. "We've done the whole process and I see nothing wrong since the governor and public supports them."

Santos, on the other hand, said the issue of releasing the absentee ballots was one of their concerns in the last Senate session. Hofschneider is appointed as Tinian's representative to the CEC.

"We ask that the [CEC] executive director and commissioners to meet immediately and address the matter so the absentee ballots are released and returned in time on Nov. 8 to be counted. Our constitution is clear on the right of our citizens to vote shall not be denied or abridged," said Santos.

She added that there is also House Bill 19-204 that is pending where it would allow extending the deadline and procedure for absentee ballots in next month's election.

"Perhaps such legislation could address the issue or predicament we face concerning the delay of releasing the absentee ballots and allowing time for these absentee ballots to be received. This is considering the time for these ballots to be received in the U.S., Hawaii, Guam and time of returning these ballots to Saipan," said Santos.

MINA, Kagman High clean Micro Beach

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance conducted a cleanup around Saipan to promote and maintain the recycling culture last Oct. 15 at Micro Beach.

MINA and Kagman High School coordinated with one another to clean up an area of Micro Beach, which then proceeded to a presentation made by a MINA Program coordinator Jolly Cruz who talked about marine debris.

"I don't think this is just important for the community. I think this is important for the whole world, because the stuff that we do on land will eventually affect the living things in the ocean, and the ocean is one of our food sources. We eat what is in there," said Cruz.

The concept of marine debris was thoroughly explained to the students.

"Marine debris; what it is, what the sources are, what the effects are, what the damage it can do to the environment, and some of the things that we can do as individuals to help prevent marine debris [were part of the presentation]," said Cruz.

Cruz explained that the land and sea are connected, and what humans do to the land eventually makes its way to the ocean.

"We are damaging one of our food sources, and as humans in general, we should be concerned about where we are putting our trash, where our trash goes, and what happens to our trash. We don't want trash to end up in our stomachs," said Cruz. "Some people don't understand that marine debris is stuff that can be intentional, non-intentional, accidental, or caused by a natural disaster."

MINA's project Marine Debris is a campaign that builds and maintains the recycling culture here in the CNMI to prevent marine debris from Saipan's waters.

MINA has been doing cleanups for the marine debris program at least twice a month, partnering with both educational institutions and parts of the private sector. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Grace Christian Academy marks 30 years

Grace Christian Academy has served the community of Saipan for 30 years. Not only has Grace Christian Academy, together with the other schools on the island, worked toward providing a higher quality and standard of education, it has also been involved in promoting awareness and assistance to government and private organizations in the community throughout the years.

An anniversary banquet will be held on Oct. 30, 2016, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beginning at 6pm.

There will also be two events for the community. A youth concert event called "Rhythms of Grace" will be held on Oct. 28 at the American Memorial Park at 6pm and a children's program with games and fun to be held on Oct. 29 from 9am to 11am at the Garapan Round House.

The GCA administration would like to invite everyone to these two free events on Friday night and Saturday morning.

For more information, call 322-3320 and ask for principal Beth Nuñez. ***(GCA)***

Halloween fun at American Memorial Park

This Halloween the community is invited to stop by the American Memorial Park for some Halloween fun. From 4pm to 7pm on Oct. 31 the park will be hosting trick or treating, face painting, and even a World War II-themed costume contest. Prizes will be given for the top three WWII themed costumes. To participate in the contest, be sure to check-in with staff or volunteers by 6pm and winners will be announced at 6:30 m.

If your business or community group would like to be a part of the event and give out treats or lead a Halloween themed activity, register with Jovanna Mafnas Moses at phpsaipan@gmail.com or call 234-7207 extension 2007. ***(NPS)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-004

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power Plants 1 and 4

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors, including their local authorized representatives for the Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) each 750 kW Diesel Generating Set at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base and one (1) each 200 kW Diesel Generating Set at CUC Power Plant No. 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall provide and pay for all labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature, and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the Diesel Generating Sets and work within the specified time frame.

CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's station service power supply requirements at Power Plant No. 1 and 4.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 27, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 and 4 facilities will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal, though it is not a mandatory requirement.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID.

One (1) original and Five (6) hard copies and 1 Compact Disc (CD) of the entire submission in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-004 – Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power plants 1 and 4"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 31, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address - Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address - venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-002

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF THE GUALO RAI YOUTH CENTER

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Repair and Renovation of the Gualo Rai Youth Center,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 12, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 28, 2016 , 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 03, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-002".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 17, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 17, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 17, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **November 25, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, September 28, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on September 17, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 208

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

The Duterte dilemma: The Philippines leader is extreme but popular

The practices and the words of relatively new president of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, present a problem for the United States in its relations with that country. What he does, what he says and what may be a tendency on his part to try to play the United States off against China and Russia in East Asia could become a problem.

At this point, given the long-standing although complex relationship between the Philippines, a nation of nearly 100 million, and the United States, at least two questions present themselves. The first is the degree to which Duterte will be able to control and direct overall Philippine policy. The second question is the degree to which he is just a big-mouthed loose cannon who has, however, behind the bravado, a no-nonsense practical side to him. Wherever Duterte really stands, it will behoove American leaders dealing with him and with the Philippines not to throw the baby (long-term generally good relations with the country) out with the bath—in this case, an intemperate leader who is short on the skill of moderating his speech as president.

Here are some of the problems that Duterte presents: Under his leadership since he took office in June, more than a thousand drug dealers and users have simply been killed. He had pursued this policy as mayor of Davao City. The problems of drug dealing and drug use did not go away there but were reduced. His replication of that approach as president seems to be popular—his rating currently stands at 83 percent—but it is clearly extralegal and is considered a gross violation of human rights by some of the rest of the world.

Duterte also shoots off his mouth, using unjustified vulgarity in discussing other world figures, including President Barack Obama and Pope Francis. The Philippines are estimated to be 86 percent Roman Catholic. Obama has declined to meet with him, avoiding even the pro forma meetings the American president has with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Most troublesome from a strategic point of view, Duterte has announced that the most recent joint military exercises that the Philippines held with U.S. forces were the last. They are intended on the American side to bulk up the Philippines' military capacity to stand up to the Chinese. On the Philippine side they are intended primarily to help it resist assorted rebellions, including by Islamic militants.

Duterte has taken the position that if the United States doesn't like what he is doing, he can turn to the Chinese and Russians. That is a position that sounds like blackmail at worst, unhelpful at best and definitely unwise and likely to provoke the opposition of many Philippine citizens, which he doesn't need.

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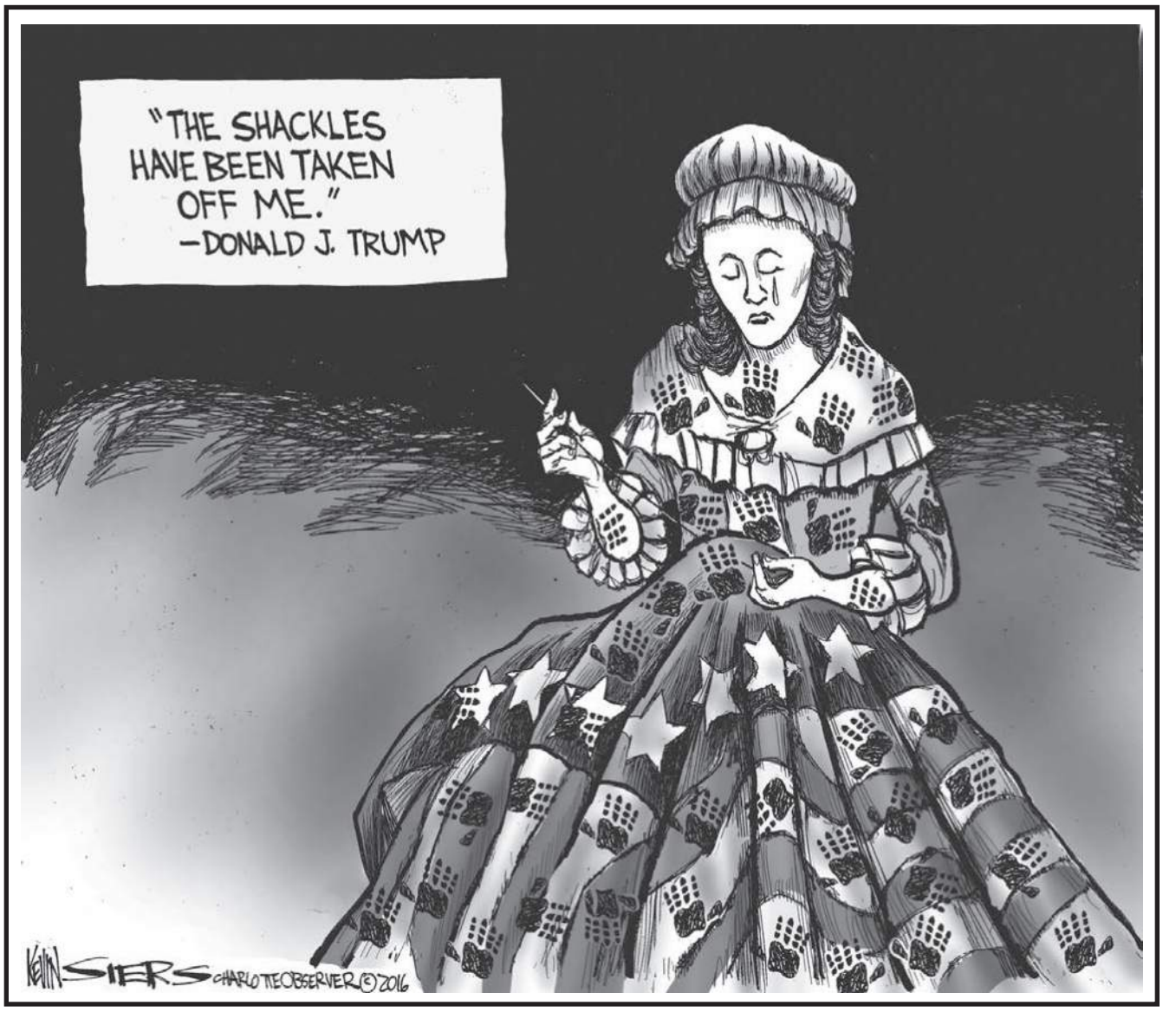


One millennial's view of this train wreck of an election

By BRITTNI TERESI
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Surrounded by the laughs and groans of others at a presidential debate party, I bury my face in my hands as I listen to the presidential candidates answer the moderator's questions with monologues that are not answers at all. I try not to let out a heavy sigh as Donald Trump tells Hillary Clinton that even Bernie Sanders says she has "poor judgment" or as Clinton interrupts Trump yet again to "fact check" another statement.

As the debate continues, masking my disapproval gets harder as both candidates fail to miss a beat when insulting one another, yet inevitably fumble when it comes to policy. Trump claims he isn't involved with Russia, despite evidence to the contrary. He once again accuses President Obama of founding ISIS and mocks Clinton for not passing any policies as senator, even though, as we all know, it takes more than one senator to pass legislation. Clinton is lacking in details when discussing policy as well, suggesting the United States is energy independent and failing to outline how she will improve the Affordable Care Act.

To make matters worse, the few times policy is actually discussed in favor of insults, there is ambiguity as to the legislation or policies that candidates would actually support.

Sure, it can be detrimental for a candidate to talk specifics in a debate, as that could result in a loss of support among independents or less partisan voters. But the candidates should at least give a better sense of their ideas for policies to give voters a vision of their platform. That's the kind of information that helps debates contribute to informed voting. They show Americans the passions and goals of the candidates.

While Clinton did advertise her platform to voters by reminding them of her website and even her book, the majority of Americans are not going to visit hillaryclinton.org/theplan or engage in a 288-page book about how we are Stronger Together. During a debate, even in the limited amount of time provided, it's the candidate's job to pitch how she will keep the country strong or how he will actually make America great again.

If the candidates are truly confident in their policies that will affect citizens in their day-to-day lives, they should provide detail. Clearly this is not the case—at least based on the lack of policy in the last two presidential debates.

As a millennial, this is a huge disappointment. It means that this election is not about how we can effectively improve our country. Instead, it shows that this election is about personal quarrels and insults, none of which will better our country for all.

Regardless of partisanship or personal values, I believe that every citizen has the goal of making America the best that it can be, and we should be debating the process of achieving this better America rather than attacking the people who are interested in creating it.

From this millennial's perspective, I believe that all people deserve a chance to pursue their own version of the American dream, regardless of their religion, race, or ethnicity. I, along with many people my age, am ashamed of politics and the lack of focus it has on the people.

One of the most disheartening questions at the debate was how each candidate would address Islamophobia. Trump suggested that Islamophobia was justified because, in his view, so many Muslims are supposedly committing crimes. Clinton suggested that we needed to work with Muslim Americans to improve national security. What happened to America being a nation founded on welcoming immigrants who are free to pursue their own goals? Muslims Americans don't have any more of a responsibility to serve as "national security" assets than any other citizen. They are Americans and they have the right to pursue their dreams just like anyone else, without having to worry about being deported or with special responsibilities to aid national security.

I believe that elections are supposed to be about offering a vision for improving the world. That's why 2016 is so disappointing. How are we ever supposed to achieve a better nation if our leader is chosen based on deceptions, personal attacks and a disregard for the community?

Of course, I don't speak for all millennials; in politics, as in many other areas, this would be impossible. (That's partly why I'm tired of commentators or others speculating on how "the millennials" are reacting to the election. Why don't you just ask us?) But this millennial believes that the presidential candidates

See ONE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Stand Up for others

By GREG BORJA
PROJECTS SPECIALIST NMPASI

Every October, schools and organizations across the country join Stomp Out Bullying in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages. This week (Oct. 17-30) is Stand Up for Others Week.

Stomp Out Bullying is the leading national anti-bullying and cyberbullying organization for kids and teens in the United States. Their organization provides the following information to help you Stand Up for Others:

Bystanders are kids and teens who witness bullying and cyberbullying in action, who stand by and watch, who videotape it and make it viral ... and who do and say nothing.

Very often they don't know what to do. They're afraid of retaliation or fear that their own group will exclude them for helping an outsider.

When you're a bystander it's important to know that by doing nothing you are sending a message to the bully that their behavior is acceptable.

It isn't!

And that's not a message you want to send, nor is it a message you would want someone to send if you were a victim.

Yes, it is scary to directly confront a bully and sometimes it can mean taking a big risk.

Stand up!

Whether you know the victim or not, there are things that you as a bystander can safely do to support the victim:

- Don't laugh
- Don't encourage the bully in any way
- Stay at a safe distance and help the target get away
- Don't become an "audience" for the bully
- Reach out in friendship
- Help the victim in any way you can
- Support the victim in private
- If you notice someone being isolated from others, invite them to join you
- Include the victim in some of your activities
- Tell an adult

There is strength in numbers. Every school and every community has more caring kids than bullies.

If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem! Unite, be empowered and speak out against bullying and cyberbullying!

Together, you can Stomp Out Bullying—but only if you do something!

When you see someone being bullied and/or cyberbullied and you help them ... you stop being a bystander and become an upstander!

Stand Up for others! Be a hero! Be a leader and Stomp Out Bullying!

No child is immune from bullying. Children with disabilities …such as physical, developmental, emotional, intellectual and sensory disabilities—are at an increased risk of being bullied.

There are a number of factors such as physical vulnerability, social skill challenges, or intolerant environments that could increase the risk. Some children with disabilities may bully others.

For more information on how to Stomp Out Bullying, please visit www.stompoutbullying.org and for more about protections for children with disabilities contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) at 235-7273 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Greg Borja is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

LITERARY CORNER

Keats tweaks bespeak Trump leaks

By JOSEPH B. "PEPE BATBON" CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last month, I took a break from reading Tang Dynasty Chinese poetry to read two of my favorite English poets, William Blake and John Keats. Keats was a Romantic poet known for his odes and wrote poetry from 1814 to 1820. He was born Oct. 31,1795, and died at the age of 25 from tuberculosis. Talk about a classic poetic life for a Romantic poet. As I read his sonnets I kept rephrasing the titles with Donald Trump as the topic. I have included the title of Keat's original sonnet at the end of each so you might see their metamorphosis. In one case I used a complete line of Keats in my sonnet and have put it in quotation marks.

On Shame (How Oblivious is the Man)

"with Trump, what you see is all there is"—Pepe Batbon

how shameful is the man who can not even look
upon his campaign days with temperate blood
who vexes his own party with gobbledy gook
robs moderate Conservatives of all that is good
as if all that hear the ears of corn should shuck itself
and hang the green unripened ears in the eaves to dry
as if all those uncast votes would stay up on the shelf
to be gathered and counted as election day draws nigh
the crude unthinking comments continue day after day
as a myopic nabob of negativity runs his POTUS race
pushing the egregious envelope with what he wants to say
giving angry voters what they want to hear from his face
a candidate oblivious or not to this should be so ashamed
of all he has said and cast aspersions on so many he named

Inspired by John Keats sonnet of 1818 titled: On Shame (How Fever'd is the Man) the parentheses are his.

On seeing Trump lose his marbles

Have you ever seen how some glass marbles are made
ones with spiraling threads of multi colored glass inside
millefiori glass beads are made in a very similar manner
they are part of many hot glass workers craft and pride
unfortunately D.T. is losing his brittle mental marbles fast
tucked up underneath those spiraling threads of dyed golden hair
as he gradually insults various aspects of Hillary Clinton's past
with tabloid journal sources and more from who knows where
his marbles are mean spirited, weak and worn from lack of fealty
weigh heavy on the voting public and his angry flock of sheep
each and every gaffe and insult Tweeted left online to keep
annoying his victims regardless of any connection to reality
Trump's marbles, no steelies, are nothing but his ego under glass
lost underneath hair on his head and show him to be a horse's ass

John Keats sonnet title, " On Seeing the Elgin Marbles."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tinian Dynasty closure not as a result of Sen. Borja

There has been a lot of misinformation out there about the reason for the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. More specifically, Senate President Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) has been criticized and subjected to criticisms as being the cause of the closure. Nothing can be farther from the truth. So that we can provide further clarification, let us look at some chain of events as per a press release dated Sept. 7, 2015 that was issued by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission:

- After Tinian Dynasty Casino was raided on April 25, 2013, Mega Stars and Chan came to the TCGCC expressing their desire to invest in the Dynasty. Mega Stars and Chan were told up front that "before they invest in the Dynasty, they must comply with the Gaming Act, they must submit an application for a casino license, they must be found suitable, they must pay required fees and then, only if they meet suitability requirements under the Gaming Act will they be allowed to invest and participate in the casino industry."
- Mega Stars and Chan took over Hong Kong Entertainment where Chan became the president and chairman of HKE.
- From July 2013 until April 30, 2014, "Chan refused to submit the needed applications and refused to cooperate." Mega Stars and Chan submitted an acceptable application on June 2, 2014, but "their application was not complete."
- In the latter part of 2014, the TCGCC learned of the involvement of Chinese Strategic Holdings Limited and its subsidiaries including Tinian Entertainment Company. The TCGCC asked these companies to submit their casino license applications.
- In February 2015, Chan informed the TCGCC that "he does not wish to proceed."
- After being accommodated by the TCGCC, these new companies finally submitted their applications in February 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Chinese Strategic Holdings Limited, Tinian Entertainment Company, and Hong Kong Entertainment that requires that the applicants "pay the license application fees, submit any additional documents or information needed, and then the commission will expedite their application and suitability review process."

All these chain of events along with the largest FinCEN fine ever imposed on a casino led to the closure of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. It was not Senate President Francisco M. Borja's decision to vote for the Saipan casino that led to the closure. Instead, Borja's foresight based on his experience and longstanding role as an elected official led him to the decision to vote for the legislation establishing the Saipan casino.

As a result of the passage of the Saipan casino legislation, retiree pensions have been funded, payments for CUC for PSS and CHC are being funded, the government's overall budget has gone up, especially the municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan with some government departments seeing as much as a 50-percent increase.

People of Tinian and to all on-island and absentee voters of Tinian (Precinct 6), Borja has the years of experience as a former police officer, a former mayor of Tinian, and a long time senator to have the foresight to consider our current economic situation and make a decision, no matter how controversial it may be, to protect our interests.

Republican Party-Tinian

ONE

From Page 10

need to reassess their values and remember the purpose that an elected government is meant to achieve.

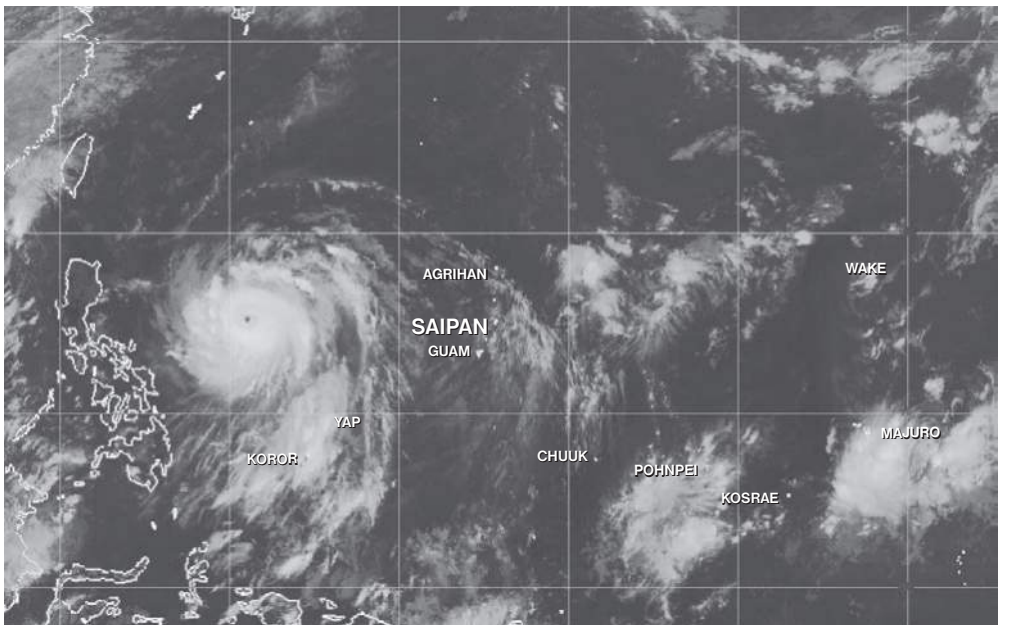
Brittni Teresi is a student at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. She wrote this for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may email her at bteresi1@swarthmore.edu.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:05 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Looks like benign weather on tap for the Marianas the next several days. GFS40 expects less than 2 inches of rain the next 10 days, possibly even less than an inch. Sea heights will also be diminishing. The only fly in the ointment could be island convection, which looks most likely and most severe on Friday. Most other days the upper-level winds are too much. We might get some showers, but that will be all. Friday, at least in this run, looks like the upper-level winds slack off. Did not change the weather grids at this point, just wanted to mention it here so future shifts can compare the next run.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly sunny	82 / 89 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	79 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Partly sunny	80 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	78 / 86 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	82 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Partly cloudy	53 / 64 °F
Beijing	Sunny	51 / 74 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	78 / 82 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	74 / 82 °F
London	Partly cloudy	47 / 57 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	60 / 87 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	79 / 86 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	45 / 60 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	76 / 83 °F
New York	Cloudy	69 / 80 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	62 / 80 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	48 / 62 °F
Pusan	Sunny	61 / 74 °F
Rome	Morning clouds	49 / 67 °F
Salem	Cloudy	47 / 59 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	52 / 70 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	51 / 73 °F
Tokyo	Decreasing cloudiness	65 / 72 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	65 / 83 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
3:41 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.37 Feet
10:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05 Feet
4:10 PM	LOW TIDE	0.87 Feet
9:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	8:53 PM	9:00 AM
Thursday	9:50 PM	10:02 AM
Friday	10:48 PM	11:02 AM
Saturday	11:45 PM	11:57 AM
Sunday	-	12:49 AM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Bishop Ryan plans to create board of consultants

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, fourth from left, receives a $500 check from officers of the United Filipino Organization last Sunday.

JON PEREZ

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez is planning to create a board of consultants composed of his fellow priests in administering the affairs of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. Jimenez is back on Saipan after a month-long orientation and training with other newly ordained bishops in the Vatican City.

Now that he is officially installed as the diocese's new bishop, he could begin his work in administering to the Catholic faithful. He was also on Rota last week for the celebration of the San Francisco de Borja fiesta.

Jimenez also recently installed Rev. Fr. Jesse Reyes as the pastor of the Santa Soledad Parish as among his first order of business as bishop. "I was for six years the apostolic administrator before I was ordained bishop and I can't do some things back then."

"Now, we can do a lot for the diocese and one of them is installing pastors in all the parishes. I also plan to have a board of consultants composed of a group of my fellow priests to help guide the faithful," added Jimenez

He would also make his rounds to all the parishes to hold listening sessions so he could have an idea of what plans to implement to further grow the faith of God's people in the CNMI.

"We are going to consult all sectors of our community especially the youth," he said. "Our young people are the most important since they have a lot of questions about our faith. We need all the help from the people. We will also have a day of prayer with our priests, since with the spirit of prayer we will make the message of God and the Church relevant."

Bishop orientation

Jimenez said he was among the four new bishops appointed by Pope Francis with the other two coming from Papua New Guinea and one from New Zealand. Kristo Rai Parish pastor Rev. Fr. Ken Hezel, SJ, being the vicar general, was the acting administrator when Jimenez was in the Vatican City.

Jimenez said the orientation of the new bishops in Vatican City is a new policy of the church. "Before I left, I even asked Bishop [Tomas A.] Camacho if they had this before and he told me they didn't have it when he became bishop."

"We have lectures and classes. It is like going to school. But it is a good way to start our ministry since we get to know the changes that were made and the different offices in our church. It is a good experience and it shows the universality of the church."

UFO donation

Jimenez also received a $500 donation from the United Filipino Organization last Sunday with the money to be used for the different projects and programs of the diocese. The money was from UFO's fundraising activities.

"I thank the UFO for all the help they do to us. They have helped in many ways that they can and respond to the needs of other people. The money will be a big help for the projects of the diocese," said Jimenez.

St. Jude Parish to celebrate fiesta on Oct. 23

The St. Jude Parish in Koblerville is inviting the community to take part in its annual fiesta this Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016. The people in charge of the Mass and ceremonies—Bishop Ryan Jimenez D.D., Msgr. James L.G. Benavente, and Fr. James Balajadia—will be presider. The fiesta's theme will be Jubilee Year of Mercy.

According to Balajadia, the novena will begin at 3pm, followed by their Eucharistic celebration at 3:30pm. After the Mass itself, attendees will take part in a procession throughout Koblerville, returning to the church grounds for food, fellowship, and entertainment.

"As the parish priest of St. Jude, I want to extend my prayers to everyone in our community," said Balajadia. "I understand times are very difficult and we struggle with many things like work or family life. However, this day can be an opportunity to gather as one family to give thanks for all blessings we have received, as well as to ask God for guidance, strength, unity, and the faith to persevere in this life. May God bless you! Thank you, *si yu'us ma'asi,* and *olomwaay!"*

Novena and Masses from Oct. 15 to 22, 2016, will consist of novenas for daily Masses starting at 5:30pm and Masses starting on 6pm. Novena Masses are in honor of St. Jude Thaddaeus, patron saint of hopeless causes.

Other celebrations this month in St. Jude Parish include Oct. 15—Mary: Holy Door of God's Mercy; Oct. 16—The Youth: The Future of Mercy & Compassion; Oct. 17—God's Embrace: The Source of Mercy and Comfort in Grief; Oct. 18—God is love: Mercy for those suffering addiction and seeking hope; Oct. 19—Cultural Diversity: God's Mercy and Peace in the works; Oct. 20—The Merciful Hands of Jesus; Oct. 21—Answering God's call: Service & Mercy in Action; and Oct. 22 at 6pm—Anticipated Mass for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

For more information or concerns, contact Balajadia at (670) 234-3000 or email at balajadiasaipan@yahoo.com. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Coloma is new Dolphin Battalion commander

MACKENZIE PEREZ

Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. John Benig, left, passes the battalion flag to new battalion commander, Chekaina Coloma.

Cadet Lt. Col. Chekaina Coloma was appointed the Dolphin Battalion's new commander during a ceremony last Friday at the Marianas High School campus. She succeeds last school year's battalion commander, C/Lt. Col Mary Grace Tiglao.

The ceremony was led by C/Capt. Maya David, who acknowledged the entire Dolphin Battalion and mentioned that Coloma's patriotism, valor, fidelity was the reason she got appointed as the new battalion commander.

Coloma was then promoted to cadet lieutenant colonel alongside C/Maj. Kaela Valencia who is the newly appointed battalion executive officer.

Present during the change of command ceremony was Coloma's mother, Valencia's parents, and the Dolphin Battalion staff.

Coloma gave remarks to the people who supported her and her old battalion commander.

"I would like to take a moment and thank my old [battalion commander], Mary Grace Tiglao, even though she is not here," said Coloma. "I started out in this program as a simple private like most of you guys right now. I climbed my way to the top and here I am now. I believe some of you guys have the potential to be standing here someday."

To improve the drill competitors for this year's Drill Competition is one of Coloma's priorities this year.

"I do plan on going into the Army, it's really for sure because I also plan on taking up nursing but I also want to be a psychologist as well, but I'm leaning more into the Army," said Coloma.

"Always stay true to yourself," were the words of wisdom from Senior Army instructor Lt. Col. Ramon Ichihara to Coloma. "*Carpe diem*. Set the example at all times, and always take the hard right over the easy wrong," added Army instructor Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Crolla to Coloma.

Her parents, Arnel and Rowena Coloma, said, "We're both very grateful and very happy about our daughter's achievement. We always knew she was capable of being a leader. When we found out that her former [battalion commander] was passing down her title to her, we were really proud of her."

"I chose Chekaina to be the next battalion commander because of her hard work and enthusiasm she exhibited during her time as a member of my staff," said last year's battalion commander, Tiglao. "I believe in all of you to continue to lead the Dolphin Battalion to greater heights."

A small gathering was done shortly after the change of command ceremony to celebrate the new battalion commander and her staff. ***(Mackenzie Perez)***

Business

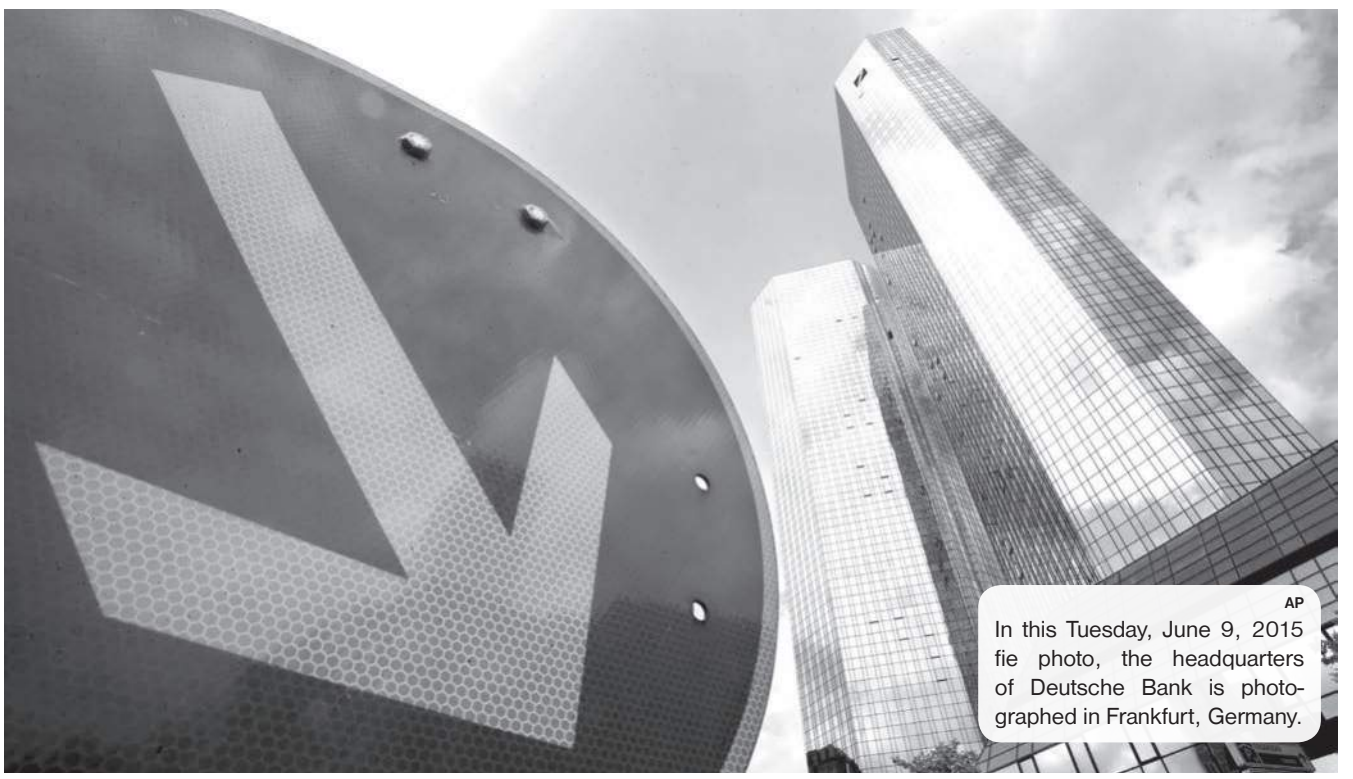
Zombie banks are stalking Europe's economy

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The walking dead are gnawing at Europe's weak economy—zombie banks and zombie companies.

Almost a decade after the financial crisis that ravaged the global economy, analysts and top officials are warning that too many banks in Europe are struggling financially, keeping them from lending to companies and fostering growth.

Calls to fix the problem have come repeatedly from the International Monetary Fund, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi. They say something has to be done if Europe's economy is to gain more traction and bring down unemployment.

Here is a look at Europe's slow-burning banking crisis and how it hurts the economy.



AP

In this Tuesday, June 9, 2015 fie photo, the headquarters of Deutsche Bank is photographed in Frankfurt, Germany.

BAD LOANS

Soured loans are one of the biggest problems, especially in Italy.

They create a vicious cycle: the slow economy means businesses can't repay their loans. That leaves the banks short of cash to finance new business ventures, which holds back the economy even more.

Getting rid of the bad loans is a struggle. Italy's Monte dei Paschi is trying to offload 27.7 billion euros ($31 billion) in such loans to investors who would buy them at a deep discount. The bank has to get rid of those problem assets before it can credibly ask investors for more money—up to 5 billion euros through a share offering.

In Italy, one reason clearing bad loans can be difficult is that the courts are clogged, meaning it can take years to pursue the debtors and recover money. That makes the assets worth even less, and the lower the price, the bigger the financial hole the bank has to fill.

ZOMBIES

Banks under financial pressure, meanwhile, tend to prop up "zombie" companies by extending loans rather than pressing for repayment.

A group of economists has found that banks under stress tend to maintain credit to companies they already have a relationship with, even if those companies are struggling. Yanking credit to such companies would mean recognizing the bank's own losses on the loans. That leaves both bank and companies as walking dead, technically still in business but unable to grow, and gobbling up credit that could otherwise go to stronger companies.

"Creditworthy firms in industries with a prevalence of zombie firms suffered significantly from credit misallocation, which slowed down the economic recovery," wrote the four economists: Viral Acharya at New York University's Stern School of Business, Tim Eisert from Erasmus University Rotterdam, Christian Eufinger at IESE Business School in Barcelona and Christian Hirsch at the Goethe University in Frankfurt.

The economy of the 19 eurozone countries grew by a quarterly rate of 0.3 percent in April-June. That's not enough to bring down the 10.1 percent unemployment rate quickly enough.

FALLING STOCKS

Weak share prices for banks have compounded the problems, as they make it harder for banks to raise money from investors.

The STOXX Europe 600 Banks index is off 21.9 percent this year, compared with a milder 7 percent drop for the broader STOXX Europe 600. Deutsche Bank is off 52 percent for the year to date; Monte dei Paschi is off 86 percent and Switzerland's Credit Suisse 37 percent.

Deutsche Bank's shares plunged after it was reportedly facing a fine of up to $14 billion dollars related to dealings in bonds backed by shaky mortgages before the financial crisis.

SKIMPY PROFITS, BIG PROBLEMS

All of this would be less of a problem if banks made enough money to build new capital reserves. But earnings have been sagging, too.

Return on banks' loans and investments has not recovered to the levels seen before the crisis. Even banks in countries that have had fewer problems—Austria, France, and Germany—have seen returns rebound only to around 0.8 percent from 1.3 percent before the crisis.

Deutsche Bank made a scant 20 million-euro profit in the second quarter despite 7.4 billion euros in revenue. That followed a 6.7 billion-euro loss in 2015.

If banks earned more money, they could attract investors more easily. "The answer is profitability," said Jan Pieter Krahnen, a professor of finance at Frankfurt's Goethe University. "As soon as profitability is back there will be plenty of capital, because people will be happy to invest. "

Banks argue that part of the problem is that the ECB has slashed the interest rate benchmark to zero, which squeezes bank's profit margins.

TOO MANY BANKS

The ECB and IMF argue that European banks should fix their underlying business models: their costs are too high and they have too many branches.

That's particularly true at a time when more banking is done online. In some countries, customers can withdraw cash at grocery stores and gas stations as they check out with the milk and broccoli—no teller involved.

The answer may be mergers and job cuts across national boundaries.

"We have seen almost nothing in terms of restructuring the industry, which should have happened over a couple of years, and which is now even more urgent than before, not so much because of the crisis but because of technological change," Krahnen said.

NO BAILOUTS PLEASE

The banks' situation is further complicated by new European Union restrictions on government bailouts.

The new rules, which took effect this year, are meant to protect taxpayers from picking up the bill for rescuing banks—as happened during the financial crisis, overwhelming entire states' finances as in the case of Ireland.

The restrictions raise the possibility that shareholders and junior bondholders—investors who loaned the bank money without getting collateral or a promise of priority repayment—would be required to take losses before government money could be used.

However, in some cases, such as Italy's Monte dei Paschi, those investors are mom and pop savers. So a rescue could mean wiping out the life savings of thousands of small investors.

At booming Jim Beam, strikers complain of grueling workweeks

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP—Striking Jim Beam workers kept picketing the world's largest bourbon producer on Monday, ahead of another round of talks that a union leader hopes will resolve their complaints about being overworked.

The dispute has splashed some disharmony on the whiskey sector's good times. The workers say the company has refused to hire more full-time workers, and that demand for Beam whiskey has them putting in 60 to 80 hours a week to keep up.

"It is really booming right now," United Food and Commercial Workers local president Janelle Mudd said by phone Monday. "Maybe they didn't take into account growing the work force as the demand grew. But we have been talking to them about this issue for a long time."

Contract talks are scheduled to resume Tuesday after workers voiced grievances at a management listening session on Sunday, Mudd said. Their main complaint is not money, but time—the union wants to see more full-time workers hired, rather than temporary employees.

A company spokesman said Monday that the session helped to "clarify points of disagreement."

"We expect to meet again soon with the assistance of the federal mediator," said company spokesman Clarkson Hine. "We remain committed to doing what we can to promote a timely resolution that is in the interest of our union employees and our business."

About 250 workers walked off their jobs Saturday at Beam distilleries in Clermont and Boston in Kentucky after voting down the company's latest contract offer Friday. Those striking workers help fill virtually every step of bourbon making at the plants, Mudd said.

Beam said unspecified contingency plans would keep operations running to keep whiskey flowing to distributors and consumers. The walkout comes as the crucial holiday season looms for whiskey producers.

The classic American whiskey brand is owned by Suntory Holdings Ltd., a Japanese beverage company.

Kentucky is home to about 95 percent of the world's bourbon production, and both the bourbon and whiskey industries are enjoying growing sales worldwide, in part driven by higher demand for premium spirits and cocktails.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EU, Belgium looking at summit for solution Canada trade deal

LUXEMBOURG (AP)—The leader of a small Belgian region who holds the key to the approval of a wide-ranging trade deal between the 28-nation European Union and Canada said he will need a few more days to study new proposals aimed at overcoming his objections. Instead of EU approval on Tuesday, as first planned, the issue could well go to a two-day summit of government leaders starting Thursday. Under the EU's complicated approval system, the fate of the trans-Atlantic deal depends on all regions in Belgium approving the deal, leaving some local governments representing only a few million people with the power to scuttle a deal affecting over 500 million EU citizens and 35 million Canadians.

Caterpillar CEO to retire next year

NEW YORK (AP)—Caterpillar said Monday that CEO and Chairman Doug Oberhelman will retire from the company next year and will be replaced as CEO by Jim Umpleby, an executive who has worked at the construction and mining equipment company for more than three decades. Umpleby, who is 58 years old, will become CEO on Jan. 1. Umpleby is currently the president of Caterpillar's energy and transportation group. Oberhelman, 63, will step down as CEO at the end of the year and leave the chairman position at the end of March. He has been CEO since 2010 and has been with the company for more than 41 years.

Nation

FBI records: Effort to reduce Clinton email classification

WASHINGTON (AP)—A senior State Department official asked the FBI last year to help reduce the classification of an email from Hillary Clinton's private server, according to FBI investigative files made public Monday. It was to be part of a bargain that would have allowed the FBI to deploy more agents in foreign countries, according to the files.

It was not immediately clear whether the State Department official or someone at the FBI first raised the prospect of a bargain over the email's classification.

The bureau records, citing an FBI official whose name was censored, said Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy sought assistance in exchange for a "quid pro quo."

But the FBI said Monday it was the now-retired FBI official who first asked Kennedy about deploying more agents overseas. The State Department said the same.

"This allegation is inaccurate and does not align with the facts," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Monday. He said Kennedy had been trying to understand the FBI's classification decisions, and added that there was never an increase in the number of FBI agents assigned to Iraq as a result of the conversations.

The FBI ultimately rejected the idea, which would have allowed the State Department to archive a message related to the 2012 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, in the basement of its Washington headquarters "never to be seen again," according to the FBI files.

AP

In this Sept. 8, 2016 file photo, Undersecretary of State for Management Patrick Kennedy testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The email described reports in November 2012 that Libyan police were arresting suspects in the attack. It had been forwarded to Clinton's private email address by Jake Sullivan, one of her top aides and the department's director of policy planning, who was using his government email account.

Republicans seized on the report as collusion within the Obama administration to protect Clinton, now the Democratic presidential nominee.

"CORRUPTION CONFIRMED: FBI confirms State Dept. offered 'quid pro quo' to cover up classified emails," read a tweet from Team Trump, retweeted by the candidate.

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said the campaign had never been part of any such discussion about email classifications.

Kennedy was a close aide to Clinton during her tenure as the nation's top diplomat between 2009 and early 2013. He had served in his position since November 2007 under President George W. Bush.

According to the FBI records, a bureau official said Kennedy "asked his assistance in altering the email's classification in exchange for a 'quid pro quo,'" and that in exchange, "State would reciprocate by allowing the FBI to place more agents in countries where they are presently forbidden."

"Although there was never a quid pro quo, these allegations were nonetheless referred to the appropriate officials for review," the FBI said in a statement Monday.

GOP office reopens soon after firebombing in North Carolina

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP)—Investigators combed through shards of glass, looked for residue of flammable accelerant and tried to narrow down the overnight hours when someone torched a local Republican Party office by throwing a flammable device through the window.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The mayor said he wasn't aware of any surveillance footage from the immediate vicinity, and the office sits where there wouldn't normally be foot traffic late at night—in a decades-old retail complex that backs up to a wooded area and is set back from a main road.

A bottle filled with flammable liquid was thrown through the window of the Orange County Republican Party headquarters early Sunday, damaging the interior before burning out, according to authorities. Someone also spray-painted "Nazi Republicans leave town or else" on a nearby wall. The office was empty and no one was injured.

Local party officials reopened a makeshift operation on folding tables outside the office Monday while uniformed police looked on. Plainclothes investigators looked for evidence at the scene as state, local and federal investigators divided up leads.

"We have had people working on it from three different federal agencies, state agencies, our local folks, all day today, running down leads, working different parts of the investigation," Hillsborough Police Chief Duane Hampton told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

He declined to say how confident he was that the evidence would lead to an arrest.

North Carolina's Republican Gov. Pat McCrory spoke to reporters at the office, saying he'd never seen anything like it in his political career. McCrory, who's been touring parts of the state ravaged by floods, said: "To come back near our state Capitol and see a broken window from a Molotov cocktail is unimaginable."

He also questioned why it took Hillsborough authorities several hours after the 911 call to release information publicly Sunday, suggesting they had initially treated the crime as merely vandalism instead of something more serious.

But Hampton said federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were called immediately and arrived on the scene within an hour of his own officers.

"I certainly don't want anyone to think that we didn't take this seriously because we realized the implications right away," he said.

Melania Trump does not believe husband's accusers

NEW YORK (AP)—Melania Trump on Monday dismissed her husband's sexually aggressive language as "boy talk," insisting his remarks do not reflect "the man I know," and said she does not believe that he has assaulted any women.

Trump's wife, in a series of media interviews, said she has accepted her husband's apology and the couple is "moving on." The comments come more than a week after the release of a 2005 video in which Trump brags about kissing women and grabbing their genitals without their permission.

"I said to my husband that, you know, the language is inappropriate. It's not acceptable. And I was surprised, because that is not the man that I know," she told CNN.

She suggested that Trump may not have known his microphone was on, calling it "kind of a boy talk" that "Access Hollywood" host Billy Bush was encouraging. And she suggested that the women who have claimed in recent days that Trump made unwanted advances were attention-seekers who were making "damaging and unfair" accusations.

"I believe my husband," she said in the interview that aired Monday night. "My husband didn't do anything."

Mrs. Trump also said it is fair game for her husband to appear with women who have accused former President Bill Clinton of sexual assault, claiming the Democrats fired the first volley into the increasingly ugly war about the couples' private lives.

"They're asking for it. They started. They started from the beginning of the campaign putting my picture from modeling days," she said in excerpts released by Fox News ahead of the interview's broadcast. "That was my modeling days and I'm proud what I did. I worked very hard."

Melania Trump's image was used in a negative ad campaign during the Republican primary, but there is no evidence that the Clintons were involved. At the time, Donald Trump accused former rival Ted Cruz of being involved and responded by tweeting an unflattering image of the Texas senator's wife. Cruz also denied involvement.

The interviews are Melania Trump's first moments in the public eye since the accusations over the last 10 days that have sent her husband's White House bid reeling.

First, a 2005 video leaked of Trump using vulgar language to describe women and apparently boasting of sexual assault. And in recent days, several women have come forward to say that Trump had groped or sexually assaulted them.

Chief: California officers spared when gunman's weapon jams

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP)—A man wearing body armor pointed an assault rifle at two police officers in a California Starbucks, only to have the weapon malfunction before he fled and was shot by the officers nearby, police said Monday.

Vallejo Police Chief Andrew Bidou called it an "attempted assassination" of the two officers, who were on break when the confrontation occurred.

The officers were caught off-guard and "were ambushed by somebody who has superior firepower," the chief said.

It marked the latest attack on police across the country, including two incidents in California in recent weeks that left a total of three law enforcement officers dead.

Police in Vallejo said Adam Powell, 41, had passed by the Starbucks six minutes earlier, apparently planning the attack.

Video from a nearby security camera showed a man walking up to the coffee shop and then sprinting away seconds later, with at least one officer chasing him.

Police said Powell appeared to keep trying to clear his weapon as he ran. Officers shot him three times about 100 feet from the Starbucks.

Resident Jazmin Addison said she heard more than a dozen shots at the corner outside her home. Addison later looked out to see a man lying on the ground, surrounded by officers.

Powell was in critical condition but stable on Monday. Police Lt. Jeff Bassett said authorities expect to arraign him within the next few days.

Police said Powell's weapon never fired. A photo provided by police showed an assault rifle bearing wear marks and duct tape. Bassett said the gun was operable except for the jam.

The man also carried a loaded handgun, police said. They described his body armor as "police-style."

Six hours before that confrontation, police responding to a shooting in Suisun City, 20 miles away, found Powell's 2-year-old son critically wounded in a family home. Powell was not there when police arrived, and other relatives told police the child had accidentally shot himself.

Asia

China says visit by PH president restores trust

BEIJING (AP)—This week's visit to China by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte points toward a restoration of trust between the sides following recent tensions over their South China Sea territorial dispute, China's official news agency said Tuesday.

The visit by the recently elected Duterte, who was due to arrive in Beijing later in the day, will be a step toward ending years of estrangement between the countries, Xinhua News Agency said.

"Should he demonstrate his good faith, the trip will present a long overdue opportunity for the two nations, which enjoy longstanding friendship, to heal the wounds of the past few years and steer their relationship back to the right course," Xinhua said in a commentary.

Duterte's visit will help define how far he wants to shift allegiance from the United States to an Asian superpower locked in a territorial standoff with his small, impoverished country, and the Philippines' 65-year alliance with the U.S.—a key pillar of President Barack Obama's rebalance to Asia - could hang in the balance.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2016 file photo, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, left, and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte link arms during the ASEAN Plus Three summit in the ongoing 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and other related summits at the National Convention Center in Vientiane, Laos.

The Xinhua editorial signals how China hopes to use the visit to regain lost ground in a Southeast Asian nation that won a major arbitration lawsuit against Beijing's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea just three months ago.

China refused to take part in the litigation or accept the ruling, which said China's historical claim to virtually the entire strategic waterbody wasn't supported by international law.

"The verdict issued by a law-abusing tribunal has no place in the negotiations at all," Xinhua said.

Duterte is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials on Thursday. The Philippine draft of a proposed joint statement touches on the restoration of permits for Filipino agricultural exports, China's support for Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs, boosting tourism and enhancing Coast Guard cooperation to avoid misunderstandings at sea.

Details are still being worked out, officials say, and it remains unclear whether the thorny issue of the South China Sea territorial disputes will be reflected in the statement.

China was to offer "assistance in personnel training and donation of equipment to aid in the fight against illegal drugs," according to the Philippine draft seen by The Associated Press.

Duterte's deadly battle against drug dealers and abusers has been a defining issue of his political career, prompting him to lash out at Obama and other foreign critics and further propelling him toward rapprochement with an uncritical Beijing.

Australian casino staff detained in Chinese gambling probe

BEIJING (AP)—The major shareholder in Australia's largest casino operator voiced concerns on Tuesday after the Chinese government announced that a senior executive and two other Australians had been detained in an investigation of suspected gambling crimes, in an apparent crackdown on overseas tours for high rollers.

The head of Crown Resorts Ltd.'s VIP International team, Jason O'Connor, is believed to be one of 18 Crown employees being questioned by Chinese authorities, the company said in a statement on Monday to the Australian Securities Exchange.

James Packer, an Australian gaming mogul with a personal fortune estimated by Forbes business magazine at $3.6 billion, said on Tuesday that he had sought regular updates on the detentions and had asked Crown to do everything possible to contact the employees and to support their families.

"As the major shareholder of Crown Resorts, I am deeply concerned for the welfare of those Crown employees detained in China," Packer said in a statement.

"Crown will do whatever it can to support our employees and their families at this difficult time. Our number one priority is to be able to make contact and to ensure they are all safe," added Packer, who founded the Australian casino operator.

Packer said he was respectful that the detentions had occurred outside Australia and were subject to Chinese rules and investigative processes.

The Chinese foreign ministry said in a regular briefing on Monday that Australians have been detained in Shanghai for suspected involvement in gambling crimes, but did not provide further details.

Fairfax Media reported over the weekend that police took the three Australians, who were visiting China on business, and local Chinese employees based in several Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, away from their homes late Thursday and detained them. O'Connor was among the Australians.

The raids were part of an apparent crackdown on the firm's operations to lure high-worth Chinese gamblers to its Australian casinos, Fairfax said.

Casino gambling is illegal on the mainland and Chinese law prohibits agents from organizing groups of more than 10 Chinese citizens to gamble abroad. The crime is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment. The industry has been known to skirt the ban by touting destination packages.

Casino operators have sought to lure Chinese high-rollers who have avoided Macau since President Xi Jinping's ongoing corruption crackdown deters visits to the offshore enclave that is the only place in China where casinos are legal.

Japan panel begins to study emperor's possible abdication

TOKYO (AP)—Experts on a government-commissioned panel held their first meeting Monday to study how to accommodate Emperor Akihito's apparent abdication wish, in a country where he is not supposed to say anything political.

Unlike many European countries where abdication of kings and queens are relatively common, Japan's modern imperial law doesn't allow abdication, and Japan's postwar constitution stipulates the emperor as a mere "symbol" with no political power or say.

Allowing Akihito to abdicate would be a major change to the system, and raises a series of legal and logistical questions, ranging from laws subject to change to the emperor's post-abdication role, his title and residence.

The six panel members—five academics and a business organization executive—are to compile a report early next year after interviewing specialists on the constitution, monarchy and history.

Akihito, 82, suggested his wish to abdicate in a rare video message to the public in August, citing his age and concern that he may not be able to fulfill his official duties. His message was subtle and the emperor did not use the word "abdication," because saying that openly could have violated his constitutional status.

Current law, set in 1947, largely inherits a 19th century constitution that banned abdication as a potential risk to political stability.

About 80 percent of the general public supports Akihito's abdication, saying he should be allowed to retire and enjoy life while he is still in good health. In addition to receiving foreign dignitaries, Akihito still travels across the country to attend ceremonies and has repeatedly visited disaster-hit areas to console survivors.

The government reportedly wants to allow Akihito's abdication as an exception and enact a special law to avoid dealing with divisive issues such as possible female succession and lack of successors.

Akihito suggested in his public message a need to consider how to make the succession process smoother. He recalled the difficulties he faced when his father, Hirohito, died in 1989 while he was largely serving as a substitute. He said he doesn't wish to cling to his title if his responsibilities have to be severely reduced and he has to rely on a regent.

The abdication issue has also renewed concerns about aging and shortage of successors in the 2,000-year-old monarchy, reflecting the overall concern about Japan's declining and rapidly aging population.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam braces for Typhoon Sarika as flood toll rises to 31

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam is bracing for Typhoon Sarika as the death toll from flooding in the central part of the country triggered by heavy rains rose to 31. The typhoon with sustained winds of 165 kph (103 mph) and gusts of up to 200 kph (124 mph) is moving toward northern Vietnam at 15 kilometers per hour (9 miles per hour), the national weather forecast center said Tuesday. It warned that heavy rains are expected Tuesday night and Wednesday in the northeast of the country. The government has urged ships and vessels to stay away from the typhoon path in the South China Sea and take shelter. It also urged local authorities to prepare to evacuate people from high-risk areas.

US warship to visit New Zealand and end 30-year stalemate

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A U.S. Navy warship will visit New Zealand next month for the first time since the 1980s, ending a 30-year-old military stalemate between the countries that was triggered when New Zealand banned nuclear warships. New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced Tuesday that he had given clearance for the destroyer USS Sampson to visit during celebrations marking the Royal New Zealand Navy's 75th anniversary. The visit marks a continued thaw in military relations between the countries that had turned frosty when New Zealand enacted its nuclear-free policy in the mid-1980s.

Indonesia prosecutors seek prison for Uighur accused of plot

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian prosecutors on Monday demanded an eight-year prison term for a Chinese Uighur accused of involvement in plots to attack Jakarta's ethnic Chinese governor and minority Shiite Muslims. In a sentencing request, prosecutors said Nur Muhammet Abdullah, known as Ali, was guilty of violating Indonesia's Anti-Terror Law. State Prosecutor Ika Salim said leniency was considered after Abdullah expressed remorse and cooperative with authorities. The verdict in his case is scheduled to be delivered next month. Prosecutors say Abdullah was preparing to be a suicide bomber and had given $2,000 to a militant group under the guidance of Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria.

World

Russia sets brief cease-fire for Aleppo as strikes kill 36

BEIRUT (AP)—Russian and Syrian forces will halt hostilities for eight hours in the eastern districts of Aleppo, Russia's military announced on Monday, a day on which opposition activists said their airstrikes killed at least 36 people, including several children, in and around the divided city.

The two militaries will observe a "humanitarian pause" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Oct. 20 to allow civilians and militants safe passage out of the city, Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of Russia's general staff said in Moscow. Militants, the wounded and sick would be allowed to evacuate to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib.

U.N. humanitarian officials have pleaded with combatants to observe weekly 48-hour cease-fires to allow humanitarian relief into the city's besieged eastern districts, but Russian and Syrian forces have only escalated their aerial and ground assault on the rebel-held areas in recent weeks. The airstrikes have claimed hundreds of lives, wounded many, flattened apartment buildings and laid waste to the already crippled medical sector.

AP

Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of the Russian military's General Staff speaks to the media, with a map of the area around Aleppo seen in the background, at the Russian Defense Ministry's headquarters in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Oct. 17, 2016.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that the eight-hour pause was a unilateral halt to fighting. A 48-hour or 72-hour cease-fire "will require some sort of mutual arrangement," he said.

Russian and Syrian leaders are now capitalizing on a proposal made by the U.N.'s envoy earlier this month to allow al-Qaida-linked militants to leave in exchange for peace and local administration for the eastern districts.

Rebels in the east, along with many residents, spurned the proposition, citing their distrust of the government side. And Russia vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution mandating an immediate cease-fire.

Russia's Churkin said that at a meeting Saturday co-chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar said they would work to separate moderate opposition groups from the former al-Qaida affiliate once known as the Nusra Front in rebel-held eastern Aleppo.

Military experts from all these countries were scheduled to meet Monday, he said.

If the separation succeeds—which is a key Russian and Syrian demand—there are two options, Churkin said. Nusra fighters must leave Aleppo or they will be defeated, he said.

Churkin said "the understanding" reached at Saturday's meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, is that once Nusra is gone the moderate opposition and the Syrian government will agree on a cease-fire to end the bloodshed.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner, speaking to reporters in Washington, noted that the people of Aleppo "have been subjected to near constant bombardment and air strikes" that have killed many civilians and leveled much of the city's infrastructure in an effort "to starve out and to drive out the opposition and civilians."

"If there is actually an eight-hour pause in the unremitting suffering of the people of Aleppo, that would be a good thing. But frankly, it's a bit too little, too late," Toner said.

Monday's Russian announcement did not include any promises of an extended cease-fire or local administration. It followed a bloody day of airstrikes on rebel-held districts in and around Aleppo.

At least 23 people were killed in airstrike that also wounded dozens in the village of Oweijel, just west of Aleppo, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Another monitoring group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the air raid was carried out by Russian warplanes and put the death toll at 30.

WikiLeaks: Assange's Internet link is 'severed' by Ecuador

PARIS (AP)—WikiLeaks has blamed Ecuador for cutting off founder Julian Assange's Internet access while he is holed up at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, and while his group is releasing thousands of emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.

Assange has been at the embassy for more than four years after skipping bail to avoid being extradited over sex crimes allegations.

WikiLeaks initially blamed an unidentified "state actor" for cutting off Assange's Internet access, then on Monday said in a tweet that it was Ecuador. It said access was cut off at 5 p.m. GMT Saturday.

Calls, texts and emails left with WikiLeaks weren't immediately returned Monday. A woman who picked up the phone at the embassy said: "I cannot disclose any information."

Ecuador's Foreign Ministry released a brief statement that didn't mention the Internet cut off, but reaffirmed its decision to grant Assange asylum.

"Faced with the speculation of the last few hours, the Government of Ecuador ratifies the validity of the asylum granted to Julian Assange four years ago," the Foreign Ministry said. "We reaffirm that his protection by the Ecuadorean state will continue while the circumstances that led to the granting of asylum remain."

London's Metropolitan Police declined to comment.

Assange's cramped quarters haven't prevented the Australian transparency activist from working and WikiLeaks continues to deliver scoops, including revelations that have rattled Clinton's campaign for president as the U.S. election enters its final stretch.

WikiLeaks said in its tweet blaming Ecuador that Assange's internet was cut shortly after it published transcripts of paid speeches Clinton gave to Goldman Sachs. Those were part of the tranche of emails hacked from the accounts of John Podesta, campaign chairman for the Democratic nominee.

UN announces agreement on 72-hour Yemen cease-fire

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The warring parties in Yemen have agreed to a 72-hour cease-fire which is to take effect shortly before midnight Wednesday, the U.N. special envoy to Yemen announced Monday.

A U.N. statement said Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed "welcomes the restoration of the Cessation of Hostilities, which will spare the Yemeni people further bloodshed and will allow for the expanded delivery of humanitarian assistance."

Ahmed said he had received assurances from all Yemeni parties to cease hostilities at 11:59 p.m. Yemen time on Oct. 19 "for an initial period of 72 hours, subject to renewal."

He said the warring factions had agreed to follow the terms and conditions of a temporary April cease-fire agreement. He expressed hope that the upcoming cease-fire would lead "to a permanent and lasting end to the conflict."

Ahmed said the agreement obliges all parties "to allow free and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel" to all parts of Yemen.

The cease-fire agreement was announced a day after Ahmed met in London with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson as a flurry of diplomacy focused on the impoverished war-torn country.

"This is the time to implement a cease-fire unconditionally and then move to the negotiating table," Kerry said after Sunday's meeting.

More than 4,000 civilians have been killed and 3 million of the country's 26 million people have been driven from their homes by the fighting. Hunger has become widespread in the Arab world's poorest country.

The war in Yemen began in 2014 when Shiite rebels known as Houthis based in the north seized the capital Sanaa. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies launched a campaign of airstrikes against the rebels. The Saudi-led coalition and the United States are backing the internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Austrian government to demolish house of Hitler's birth

VIENNA (AP)—The house where Adolf Hitler was born will be torn down and replaced with a new building that has no association with the Nazi dictator, Austria's government announced Monday as it moved to eliminate the property's pull as a place of pilgrimage for neo-Nazis.

The plan still has to be formalized in legislation and voted on in Parliament. But the Interior Ministry said demolition was recommended by a government-appointed commission.

With the Social Democratic and centrist People's Party in the majority, and most opposition parties expected to support the plan, passage was likely no more than a formality.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka said that "a thorough architectural remodeling is necessary to permanently prevent the recognition and the symbolism of the building."

Ministry spokesman Karl-Heinz Grundboeck said that means that except for its foundations, nothing will be left of the house in the western town of Braunau and that a new structure will be erected in its place.

A ministry statement emailed to The Associated Press quoted Sobotka saying he wants to ensure that any association with Hitler is eliminated at the site, adding that he could conceive of it being repurposed to house either government or social agency offices.

The statement said the commission had recommended against leaving the site empty, which could be interpreted as an attempted "denial of Austrian history."

The government this year launched formal legal procedures to dispossess the home's owner after she had repeatedly refused to sell the building or to allow renovations that would reduce its symbolic impact as Hitler's birthplace—and its draw for admirers of the Fuhrer.

The statement said the Interior Ministry planned to finalize a draft law making the house state property before putting it to a vote in Parliament by the end of the year.

Vienna's Jewish community and a government-supported anti-Nazi research center support tearing down the imposing three-story yellow house, where Hitler was born on April 20, 1889.

But some historians argue that the house and the apartment inside where the Hitler family lived briefly should be preserved specifically because they are among the few surviving structures linked to the Nazi leader.

Focus

AP
In this July 5, 1960, file photo, Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, right, plays the saxophone during a jam session with legendary jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman, left, drummer Gene Krupa, second left, and trombonist Urbie Green in New York.

Thailand's late king also artist, jazz musician, inventor

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press
JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP)—Aside from his kingly duties—and they were immense—Thailand's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej took time during his 70-year reign to compose music (and jam with some of the world's jazz legends), build sailing craft (and win an international yachting race), paint surrealistic oils and have some 20 patents registered for an assortment of inventions.

Here's a look at the many avocations pursued by Bhumibol, who died last week at the age of 88:

MUSICIAN

"He is simply the coolest king in the land," declared American jazz great Lionel Hampton of Bhumibol's talent on the saxophone. He also played clarinet, trumpet and the piano, often with his own palace band, and one of the highlights of a 1960 visit to New York was a two-hour jam session with Benny Goodman.

Largely self-taught, he is credited with nearly 50 compositions, including a three-movement ballet previewed in Vienna and songs that are still frequently heard in Thailand, including "Falling Rain" and "Candlelight Blues." Six of his songs were included in a 1950 Broadway musical, "Peepshow," with one, "Blue Night," described by one critic as a "sensuous beguine."

INVENTOR

Having tinkered since childhood and studied some science and engineering in Switzerland, the king came up with inventions throughout much of his reign, with 20 patents and 19 trademarks registered under his name and some garnering international awards. Most were related to rural development, although he also configured a new gun mount on helicopters and offered ideas on how to prevent the M-16, the standard U.S. assault rifle in the Vietnam War, from jamming.

Pondering how to prevent annual flooding in Bangkok, he recalled from childhood pet monkeys munching on bananas, then retaining the food in their cheeks to later swallow. The king's "monkey cheeks" initiative featured reservoirs on the peripheries of Bangkok into which onrushing water was diverted and later flushed into the sea or used for irrigation.

His inventions included a biofuel from palm oil and the low-cost Chaipattana aerator, which resembles a paddle wheel on old steamers and can be inserted into rivers, canals and marshes to counter water pollution. The aerators can be seen across Thailand, including at the royal residence in Bangkok.

A 2005 European patent, number 1491088, describes a technique for seeding clouds to induce rain over drought-stricken areas. Dubbed the "super sandwich," pilots disperse environmentally friendly chemicals to form cool and warm clouds at different altitudes.

ARTIST, AUTHOR, SAILOR

Bhumibol was 8 when he got hold of his first camera—a Coronet Midget given by his mother—and rarely was one out of reach through most of his life, capturing both domestic scenes and documenting his efforts to improve rural lives.

The king's more than 60 sculptures and paintings range from traditionally realistic to expressionistic and abstract. Some are starkly contemporary.

"This is called 'Subversion'—there is greed, anger and evil. I painted it with a knitting needle," he said of one.

The king also penned several books, including one about a beloved stray dog that he had adopted.

A keen sportsman until hobbled by illnesses over the past decade, he teamed up with one of his daughters to win a yachting gold medal in the 1967 Southeast Asian Peninsular Games. A year later, he challenged another royal sailor, Britain's visiting Prince Philip, to a race.

Mourning Thais dye clothes as prices for black apparel surge

BANGKOK (AP)—Pop-up clothes dyeing centers are a new phenomenon in the Thai capital as black apparel becomes too expensive for many following the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The Thai government has declared national mourning for Bhumibol, who died Thursday, and some clothing sellers have been quick to hike prices for black garments. Others have run out of stock.

Vats of black dye were boiling nonstop Monday at a free dying station set up in downtown Bangkok by a tractor importing company.

Volunteers rushed to write down names and contact information from a stream of visitors bringing in colored clothes.

"Some people don't have black clothes or don't have enough to wear," said Kanokporn Tantranont, a Krung Thai Tractor employee helping out at the center. "If you go out to buy more clothes, the prices are so high," he said.

His employer says the dyeing station will stay open until the end of the month and people can also donate old clothes to be dyed black.

Bhumibol's death after a reign of 70 years has triggered an intense outpouring of grief in Thailand, where the monarchy is revered. And some people have taken to criticizing others who don't strictly conform to the mourning dress code, which allows black or black with white.

Department stores have dressed up their mannequins in all-black attire, and anything flashing red, green, pink or the like has been moved or hidden.

But for some, restocking their closet is not an option.

Waiting for his newly dyed black clothes, Kamol Samutsal, a 43-year-old office worker, said some dye shops in Bangkok have been profiteering as well.

"It has become as expensive as buying new clothes," said Kamol. "I think it's good that they provide a free service to the public here."

Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said people shouldn't be criticized for not wearing black or white because feelings of grief come from the heart, not what clothes are worn.

Government workers are required to wear black mourning attire for one year. State events are also under a 30-day moratorium, and all public offices and schools will fly flags at half-staff for 30 days.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Plant bulbs in the fall for breathtaking springtime blooms

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

TNS

A splashy show of yellow daffodils works nicely in a small front yard.

Late October and November are bulb-planting months — the time to tuck daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and other spring-flowering bulbs into the soil where they can root and surprise you with sensational springtime scenes.

Whether you are a beginning gardener or a master gardener, bulbs add a layer of interest that makes any yard extraordinary. Think of trees and shrubs as the bones that structure your yard. Perennials, including bulbs, dress it up, giving you year-round color when you plan and plant with seasonality in mind. For instance, there are early-, mid- and late-flowering daffodils, so avoid picking varieties that bloom at the same time. A free print or downloadable digital catalog from Brent and Becky's Bulbs — www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com or 877-661-2852 — in Gloucester, Va., provides bulb descriptions that tell you when each variety blooms and how to combine bulbs for dramatic results.

"The great thing about bulbs is that you plant them and then wait for them to put on a show," says Denise Hutchins, spokeswoman at Brent and Beck's Bulbs.

"However, we do get many calls in the winter when there are warm days and the leaves begin to push through the ground. Once the bulbs have grown their roots, they will not freeze due to a chemical that forms within the bulb that protects them. But, when the leaves seem to come up too early, they may get nipped by a frost. This will only cause the tip ends of the foliage to turn yellow, but will not hurt the flower or the bulb. Fluctuations in the temperature throughout spring may delay or excel the bloom time and can cause flowers to bloom on shorter than normal stems.

"But, for the most part, Mother Nature cares for the bulbs throughout the winter."

Bulbs are also good for small garden spaces and containers because they give you a pop of color and interest without taking up a lot of room. Again, fall is the time to prepare those containers of bulbs and over winter them outdoors, letting Mother Nature provide the care with minimal assistance from you, adds Hutchins. To protect pots of bulbs outdoors from cold, freezing winds, place them in a sheltered, but sunny spot and/or pile leaves around the pots.

TNS

Clusters of daffodils planted along a walkway make the area look larger and showier.

TNS

Daffodils Ice Follies dress up a mailbox area.

For kids, bulbs are one of the simplest and best ways to get into gardening indoors or outdoors.

"A wonderful project through the winter is to pot them up and enjoy during the cold winter months," says Hutchins.

"Or, out in the garden when they can go out and look and see the changes every day and then experience the joy of seeing their flowers bloom. With great success rates from growing bulbs, kids can develop a love for gardening and the natural environment."

BEST NEW BULBS

Hutchins lists these best new bulbs at Brent & Becky's Bulbs:

TNS

Allium Miami.

■ Narcissus Prosecco. The first all-pink daffodil is a fragrant jonquilla with multiple blooms per stem. Very unique in the daffodil world, she says.

■ Narcissus Starlight Sensation. Bred in Gloucester, by Brent and Becky Heath, it's a fragrant, creamy white daffodil with dark green foliage and multiple blooms per stem.

■ Tulipa Brownie. The double, early tulip is sweetly fragrant and features a blend of warm tones. "When Jay and Brent saw a patch of this blooming in the field in Holland, they were impressed that you could smell the fragrance while standing near the field," she says.

■ Allium Miami. The long-lasting, oval-shaped ornamental onion is a beautiful flower for late spring/early summer and a pollinator attractor. Allums can dry in the garden and be spray painted, too, for a pop of color all year.

■ Musari armeniacum Alida. It's an early-blooming flower with rich purple coloration that is easy to force bloom indoors. Great choice for outdoor containers placed where you can see and enjoy them.

TNS

Tulipa Brownie.

COLOR COMBOS

For viewing at close quarters, simplicity is pleasing, according to Tim Schipper, founder of www.Colorblends.com.

"Think in twos and threes," he says.

"Pair any daffodil — white, yellow, apricot or bi-color — with blue grape hyacinths, blue squill or blue Glory of the Snow. For spectacular tulip combinations, consider blends designed to bloom together. Colorblends.com offers Tulip Blend Celebration with three tulips in brilliant red-orange-yellow and Tulip Blend Pillow Talk with two beautifully-matched tulips in softest pink, yellow and white. For an especially long-lasting tulip display Tulip Blend Red Cubed combines three red tulips that bloom in sequence.

"In even the smallest yard or garden, there's always room to plant a handful or two of flower bulbs. With crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips, that's all it takes to make an impact in spring."

TNS

Musari armeniacum Alida.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Sizzling Sesame Beef

In 30 minutes this simple but flavorful beef stir-fry will be on the dinner table and ready for the family to enjoy.

1 pound beef sirloin or ribeye steak, cut 1-inch thick
1 cup short-grain or jasmine rice
2 green onions, white portions cut into 2-inch chunks, green portions thinly sliced
4 cloves garlic, crushed with press
4 teaspoons Asian sesame oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons sugar
2 tablespoons lower-sodium soy sauce
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 pound broccoli florets

1. Place steak in freezer. Prepare rice as label directs. Meanwhile, in large bowl, combine 1 tablespoon sliced green onions, 1 teaspoon garlic, 2 teaspoons oil and 1/4 teaspoon salt; set aside.

2. Cut cold steak across grain into very thin slices; in shallow bowl, toss with sugar, 1 tablespoon soy sauce, green-onion chunks and remaining garlic.

3. In 12-inch skillet, heat 1-inch water to boiling on high. Add broccoli; cook 3 minutes or until just tender. Drain well; place in same bowl as onion-garlic mixture. Toss well.

4. Heat remaining oil in same skillet on high until hot. Add beef in single layer; cook 1 minute. Stir in remaining sliced green onions and salt and pepper (to taste); cook 1 minute longer. Stir in remaining soy sauce. Serve with rice and broccoli. Serves 4.

* Each serving: About 510 calories, 21g total fat (7g saturated), 30g protein, 50g carbohydrate, 5g fiber, 75mg cholesterol, 585mg sodium.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

Life & Style

NBC News fires Billy Bush after lewd Donald Trump tape airs

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News on Monday fired "Today" show host Billy Bush, who was caught on tape in a vulgar conversation about women with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump before an "Access Hollywood" appearance.

Bush was suspended at the morning show two days after contents of the 2005 tape were reported on Oct. 7. Once it became clear he wouldn't be back, NBC and Bush's representatives had been negotiating terms of his exit.

On the tape, Bush is heard laughing as Trump talks about fame enabling him to grope and try to have sex with women not his wife. Trump has denied groping women, and Bush later said he was "embarrassed and ashamed" by what was caught on tape.

NBC made the announcement of his firing in a note from "Today" show top executive Noah Oppenheim to his staff. Oppenheim called Bush, who spent 15 years at "Access Hollywood," ''a valued colleague and longtime member of the broader NBC family. We wish him success as he goes forward."

Bush

Bush, a 44-year-old father of three and nephew of former President George H.W. Bush, said that he was "deeply grateful for the conversations I've had with my daughters, and for all of the support from family, friends and colleagues. I look forward to what lies ahead."

The settlement with NBC did not include a non-compete clause, meaning Bush "is a free agent," said his lawyer, Marshall Grossman. Financial terms of the deal were kept confidential.

In an interview with CNN on Monday, Trump's wife, Melania, said that her husband was "egged on" by Bush in the conversation.

"I wonder if they even knew the mic was on," Melania Trump said, referring to her husband and Bush. She said they were involved in "boy talk, and he was led on—like egged on—from the host to say dirty and bad stuff."

Asked to comment, Grossman said, "I thought that Donald Trump would claim that he was not on the bus."

In the 2005 tape, which was first revealed by The Washington Post, Trump discusses unsuccessfully seeking an affair with another "Access Hollywood" employee, Nancy O'Dell. Trump said that when he was attracted to beautiful women "I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet." He said that when you're a star, women let you.

"Grab them by the p----. You can do anything," Trump added.

The two men discussed an actress who was waiting from at the end of the bus ride. When they got off, Bush urged the woman to hug Trump and added, "how about a little hug for the Bushy?"

Trump said in the second presidential debate that he never did any of the actions heard on the tape, which he described as locker room talk. But a number of women have since come forward and said that Trump had surprised them in the past by groping or unexpectedly kissing them on the lips.

Bush had only worked at "Today" for two months. Since women make up roughly two-thirds of the audience during the hour that he hosted, he faced an uphill battle gaining the trust of viewers.

NBC, which did not comment on the agreement beyond Oppenheim's statement, had Harry Connick Jr. filling in for Bush on Monday and Tuesday.

Bette Midler revisits 'old friends'—her star-making songs

NEW YORK (AP) — Bette Midler is going back to the beginning of her career — the divine beginning.

The Grammy- and Emmy Award-winner is re-releasing a deluxe version of "The Divine Miss M," her 1972 debut album that included the hits "Do You Want To Dance," ''Chapel Of Love," ''Friends" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

"They were the songs that launched me, really. They were the foundation on which I built my career," Midler said. "I'm always happy to sing them because they're friends. They're old friends."

Midler made a name for herself in the early 1970s singing high-energy concerts downtown with Barry Manilow as her pianist. In vintage clothing and with her bawdy personality, she breathed new life into old songs and made torch songs scalding.

"She was, and is, the most brilliant performer we have in my lifetime," Manilow said. "When it came to the music, her taste in songs and her choices were so odd — what was on the radio those days was nothing like what she wanted to do. Her taste was very much my taste."

Midler and Manilow put together a solid hour of music and one night lured Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun to a swanky midtown nightclub to hear it. "The audience was so crazy that at the end of the show they carried her out on their shoulders," Manilow recalled.

Midler soon signed with Atlantic and released "The Divine Miss M" based on her act. She won a best new artist Grammy in 1973 and went on to get two more, plus four Golden Globes and three Emmys. This spring she returns to Broadway in a revival of the musical "Hello, Dolly!"

She admitted to being a little shocked revisiting the platinum-selling album that made it all possible 44 years later: "It's just unbelievable the way that time passes. And yet I still look fabulous. What can I say?"

Midler was hands-on with the re-release by Rhino Records, including selecting the bonus disc of singles, outtakes and demos. There are five unreleased recordings, including "Mr. Freedom And I," and an alternate version of "Superstar."

For 'SNL,' Donald Trump is the gift that keeps on giving

NEW YORK (AP)—Already enjoying its best ratings in eight years with politically charged comedy, "Saturday Night Live" got something even more beneficial with Donald Trump's potshots—validation.

Hours after seeing himself portrayed by Alec Baldwin opposite Kate McKinnon's Hillary Clinton impersonation for the third straight week, the Republican presidential candidate took to Twitter to complain. He called the opening skit a hit job, and said Baldwin's impersonation stinks. "Time to retire the boring and unfunny show," Trump tweeted.

"Trump doing this is like an endorsement for the rest of the world," said David Bianculli, author of the upcoming book "The Platinum Age of Television."

Less than a year ago, the venerable NBC late-night show earned big ratings—and a lot of heat—for having Trump as a guest host. Critics savaged the show. NBC, which that summer had gone out of the beauty pageant business with Trump after his comments about Mexican immigrants and cut ties with him on "Celebrity Apprentice" after he announced his presidential bid, was questioned about whether it was inconsistent to bring him on as "SNL" host.

During its first two weeks on the air this fall, NBC had bigger season-opening audiences than at any point since Tina Fey was doing her memorable Sarah Palin impersonation in 2008, the Nielsen company said. Based on preliminary ratings, this past Saturday's third week will be the same.

The season-opening audience of 8.3 million viewers beat the 2015 debut's count of 6.3 million, Nielsen said. But that's only a partial illustration of the show's reach: add in people who watched a recording or on-demand stream within a week, and viewership bounced to 12.2 million.

Additionally, more than 36 million people watched a clip of that show's opening skit with Baldwin and McKinnon on Facebook or YouTube, NBC said. Some others likely watched on other sites, including NBC's own.

"Saturday Night Live" is well-attuned to the political calendar. It is opening the season with four straight live episodes, will take a break Oct. 29, and will be back on the Saturdays immediately before and after the election.

"Presidential campaigns for 'SNL' are like when you gather nuts for the winter," said James Andrew Miller, co-author with Tom Shales of "Live From New York: The Complete, Uncensored History of 'Saturday Night Live.'" "You try and get new eyeballs and bring people into the tent who either haven't seen it or haven't seen it for a while and get them hooked."

Trump's criticism is likely to get people who heard it to check and see what he was so angry about, he said. There's already some evidence of this: in only a day, an estimated 9.3 million people had checked out video of the opening skit on Facebook or YouTube, sure to pass the 10 million who saw the second week's opener.

"If Donald Trump is against you, it means something," Bianculli said. "I'm sure if he watched John Oliver or Bill Maher, he'd be just as outraged. Good for 'Saturday Night Live' for still being in the conversation."

Broadway concert for Hillary Clinton draws huge stars

NEW YORK (AP)—Stars of Hollywood and Broadway—including Julia Roberts, Jake Gyllenhaal, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Hugh Jackman, Emily Blunt, Neil Patrick Harris and Helen Mirren—put on a splashy fundraiser for Hillary Clinton.

The Democratic candidate could only address the group via a video message Monday evening. But daughter Chelsea and husband, Bill, were present at the sold-out event at the 1,300 seat St. James Theatre. Billy Crystal was host and Barbra Streisand lent her recorded voice to the show.

"What is at stake in this election is the future that we want our children to grow up in and whether or not we are going to have a country that we all can be proud of because all of us can be ourselves," Chelsea Clinton said.

Bill Clinton called his wife "the single-best changemaker I've ever known." He added: "It is not true that our best days are behind us. It is not true—unless we give it up. Don't give it up. Grab it."

The event alternated performances with readings or short speeches. Angela Bassett recited a Sojourner Truth speech, Mirren read one by Eleanor Roosevelt and Julia Roberts read a column by Molly Ivins.

Joel Grey and Sienna Miller sang "Wilkommen" from "Cabaret," Parker and Andrea McArdle belted out "Tomorrow" from "Annie," Anne Hathaway and Kelli O'Hara sang a tuneful medley of "Get Happy" and "Happy Days Are Here Again," and Sara Bareilles sang her hit "Brave."

Jon Hamm and Jake Gyllenhaal teamed up to perform a bit of Sinclair Lewis's play "It Can't Happen Here," Alan Cumming spoke about LGBT rights, Lena Dunham recited part of Hillary Clinton's concession speech in 2008 and new Tony Award-winner Cynthia Erivo closed the show with a gospel-tinged "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Crystal kicked off the night by cracking that it was the greatest collection of Broadway and Hollywood stars since liberal-leaning producer "Harvey Weinstein's daughter's bat mitzvah."

Crystal then launched into a version of "Comedy Tonight" from the musical "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"—renamed "Hillary Tonight"—with the lyrics: "No racist baiting/No Muslim hating/Pantsuits for everyone/It's Hillary tonight!"

Donald Trump was a constant target for Crystal, who at one point compared the Republican candidate to hurricane season: "Think about it: It starts with a lot of hot air spinning out of control. It hits America, causes a lot of damage and panic. But it's completely over by November."

Many of the songs were picked to tweak Trump, including one from "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," and "Children Will Listen" from Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," sang by Bernadette Peters with a children's' choir.

Other performances included Josh Groban singing "Over the Rainbow," Stephen Schwartz and Kelli O'Hara dueting on "For Good" from "Wicked," Harris reprised his Tony-winning title turn in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" with a powerful rendition of "Origin of Love."

Tickets ranged from $45 in the rear balcony to $2,700 premium orchestra seats, with bundles of top tickets plus access to a post-event party going for $5,000. It was streamed live on Clinton's Facebook page.

A few protesters—one holding a "Clinton 4 Jail" sign—stood across the street under the marquee for "The Phantom of the Opera." Inside the Clinton event theater, which usually houses the musical "Something Rotten!,"many performers wore pro-Hillary T-shirts and at least one attendee wore a glittery "I'm With Her" top.

Toward the end of the 2½-hour show, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Renée Elise Goldsberry, the Tony-winning stars of the Broadway phenomenon "Hamilton," took the stage for a riotous rap based on the song "The World Was Wide Enough"—"I have only one overwhelming feeling," they asked. "Anybody here want to shatter a glass ceiling?"

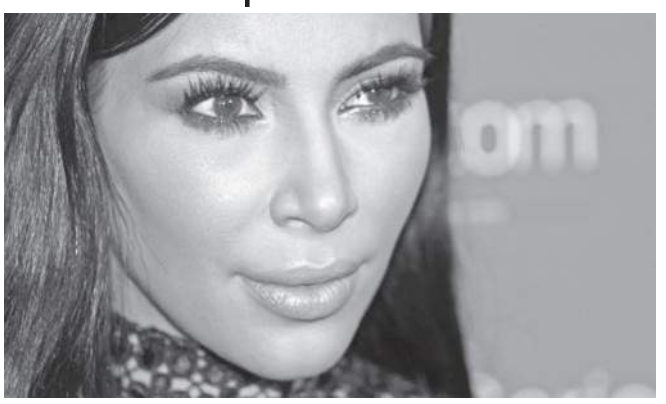
Kardashian West assistant speaks on Kim's silent phone app

NEW YORK (AP)—Kim Kardashian West is "taking some much needed time off" from sharing on her phone app after she was held up at gunpoint in Paris, according to a handwritten noted posted in the app Monday by an assistant.

"But not to worry," wrote "Steph Shep," the nickname for Kim assistant Stephanie Sheppard. "We've called upon Kims (sic) closest friends, fam & yours truly to serve up some exclusives."

Sheppard promised: "Stay tuned for new posts and app takeovers!!"

Kardashian West has maintained silence on all her social media streams since the Oct. 3 jewelry heist, when she was bound and left in a bathtub by suspects who remain at large. Police estimate more than $10 million in jewels were stolen.



AP
In this June 24, 2015, file photo, Kim Kardashian West poses during a photo call at the Cannes Lions 2015 in Cannes, France.

The paid app is a rare social media spot where Kardashian West charges money for access. It had been left untouched since the robbery.

The heist, sister Khloe Kardashian said on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" about a week after the hold up, was a "wake up call to make a lot of life adjustments" for all in the reality TV family.

Usually heavy social media sharers, the famous sisters, mom, brother and a universe of friends have scaled way back and Kardashian has kept a low profile.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Posthumous book by Shimon Peres coming next spring

NEW YORK (AP)—A book about Israel's character and the "turning points" in its history that Nobel laureate Shimon Peres completed just weeks before he died will come out next spring. The HarperCollins imprint Custom House told The Associated Press on Monday that Peres' "No Room for Small Dreams" will be published April 4. The book by the former prime minister had been planned since 2014 and was completed earlier this year. Peres, whose previous books included the memoir "Battling for Peace," died last month at age 93. According to Custom House, Peres will reflect on everything from war to Israel's high-tech industry and will touch on his role in some of the country's most crucial decisions. He also will address younger generations and their "obligations and opportunities."

Elmo's World returning to 'Sesame Street' in January

NEW YORK (AP)—Preschoolers can explore an updated version of Elmo's World when the new season of "Sesame Street" debuts next year. Sesame Workshop says it's making new episodes of the popular segment for the first time since 2009. Also returning is Tony Award-winning performer Bill Irwin, who played Elmo's friend, Mr. Noodle. Sesame Workshop says 25 5-minute Elmo's World segments will be produced in which Elmo will teach kids through matching, sorting and counting games. Repeats of original Elmo's World segments will also be included in some episodes of the upcoming season. "Sesame Street" will include a new "kindness curriculum" this year aimed at fostering "behaviors that can have significant outcomes throughout a child's life." Season 47 of "Sesame Street" premieres on HBO in January.

Yoko Ono unveils lotus-petal sculpture in Chicago park

CHICAGO (AP)—Artist-singer Yoko Ono has unveiled her first permanent public installation in the U.S. in a Chicago park that will be home to President Barack Obama's library. Ono on Monday unveiled "SKYLANDING" in Jackson Park on the city's South Side. The work has 12 large steel lotus petals that emerge from the ground. Ono says the artwork is "place where the sky and earth meet and create a seed to learn about the past and come together to create a future of peace and harmony, with nature and each other." The idea for the sculpture started when Ono visited the area during a cherry blossom tree installation three years ago. The Obama Foundation in July said the presidential library would be built in Jackson Park.

UN continues to support DiCaprio's work on climate change

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A U.N. spokesman has expressed continued support for Leonardo DiCaprio's work as a "Messenger for Peace" for climate change despite an environmental group's demand that he resign over alleged ties to a Malaysian corruption scandal. Stephane Dujarric said Monday that he understands that DiCaprio's foundation is working with the relevant authorities in the U.S. to resolve the issue. "We continue to welcome his public work on behalf of climate change," Dujarric said. Last week, a Swiss rainforest charity demanded that DiCaprio disclose his ties to a Malaysian development company accused of embezzling millions of dollars in state funds. "We can't save the environment if we fail to stop corruption," Lukas Straumann, director of Bruno Manser Fonds, said in a statement on the organization's website.

'Better Call Saul' filming third season in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Bob Odenkirk and the rest of the cast of the television series "Better Call Saul" are returning to New Mexico to film the show's third season.

The New Mexico Film Office made the announcement Monday. Produced by Sony Pictures Television, the Emmy-nominated series is expected to employ several dozen New Mexico crew members. "Better Call Saul" follows Jimmy McGill, played by Odenkirk, who later changes his name to Saul Goodman and becomes an attorney for drug lords in "Breaking Bad." Odenkirk played the lawyer of Bryan Cranston's character, Walter White, in "Breaking Bad."

Price is Right' contestants make history with three-way tie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Price is Right" history was made on Monday's episode when a trio of contestants spun $1 on the game show's colorful wheel. The three contestants each landed on different combinations of $1 in a pair of spins during one of the show's showcase showdowns. The game show famously awards contestants who earn $1 on the wheel without going over a $1,000 price and a chance to spin again. "The Price is Right" host Drew Carey pumped his fist in the air after the contestants achieved the first three-way $1 tie in the show's history . The three contestants celebrated by jumping up and down while embracing in a group hug.

The long-running CBS game show is currently airing its 45th season.

Howard Stern won't air past Donald Trump interviews

NEW YORK (AP)—Howard Stern doesn't plan to air old interviews with Donald Trump featuring the now Republican presidential candidate discussing his sexual exploits. The talk show host said Monday on his SiriusXM show that he wouldn't dig into his archives to replay any of the about 50 interviews he's conducted with Trump over the years. "I feel Donald Trump did the show in an effort to be entertaining and have fun with us," Stern said. "I feel like it would be a betrayal to any of our guests if I sat there and played them now (when) people are attacking him." Stern, who has publicly supported Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, noted that his conversations with Trump were broadcast and not "done in private like the Billy Bush tapes." "I knew I had a guy who loved to talk about sex," Stern said. "I had a guy who loved to evaluate women on a scale of 1 to 10. These are avenues I went down because I knew it would entertain the audience." In past interviews with the shock jock, Trump has given Stern permission to call daughter Ivanka Trump a "piece of (expletive)," boasted about walking in on undressed contestants at his beauty pageants, bragged that he could have had sex with Diana, princess of Wales, and admitted to cheating on ex-wife Ivana Trump. Stern dismissed Trump's comments to "Access Hollywood" host Billy Bush as "locker room talk." He said he has never been in a locker room when "someone has said 'grab them by the (expletive)."

Woman wants photographer boyfriend to focus on her

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are mature adults who enjoy photography. He brings his camera when we go to the beach or sporting events—even to the store. He's learning all the time about how to use light correctly and his zoom lens.

When we get back and I download the pics from his camera, the majority of shots are of women's chests, behinds and pretty faces. He has snapped many of them while they were standing right next to me. (There are very few shots of me—ever.)

When I ask if he wants me to delete the photos, he says no. I don't understand why he would keep pictures of strangers. He says he's like any photographer—he likes to review his photos. I tell him it hurts my feelings to think he enjoys looking at other women more than at me. It would be different if they were beautiful portraits, but they're not. It is painful that I'm not included. Am I wrong to feel unimportant and ignored?

OUT OF THE PICTURE

DEAR OUT: You are entitled to your feelings, and they may be justified. Because you identify this man as your boyfriend, I assume you have an exclusive relationship. There will always be women around who are younger and prettier. That's life. Because you can't control his taste in subjects, my advice is to quit downloading his pictures for him if they make you uncomfortable.

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have a loving relationship. He is affectionate—hugging, kissing, etc. But he doesn't have a high libido, which I am concerned about because he's only 26.

He has confessed to me he's had relations with men in the past, and I'm thinking he may be bisexual. While that does not concern me whatsoever (after all, it's one thing to be attracted to someone and another thing entirely to cheat), I worry that he thinks he couldn't share this with me, and that it may lead to lies. I am also worried that if I confront him with this, he may be offended or think I think less of him. What should I do?

LOVING RELATIONSHIP IN MICHIGAN

DEAR LOVING: You and your fiance are overdue for a frank talk. He has told you that he has had more than one same-sex relationship, so it's fair to consider him to be bisexual. That he didn't use that word doesn't mean he was dishonest. We communicate with our actions as well as verbally.

That you have continued your relationship after learning about his sexual history should indicate to him that you don't think less of him. As to the strength of his libido, no two individuals are alike. If he is able to provide you with what you need, I don't think you need to be concerned. If not—as I said before, you have to talk with him about it.

DEAR ABBY: How do you get a man to help you financially?

ANONY-MISS IN BEVERLY HILLS

DEAR ANONY-MISS: Tell him you need his help and hope he's the type who likes rescuing women.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

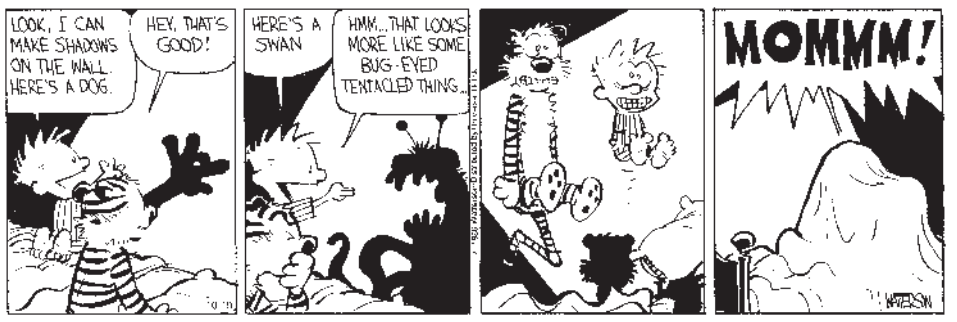
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

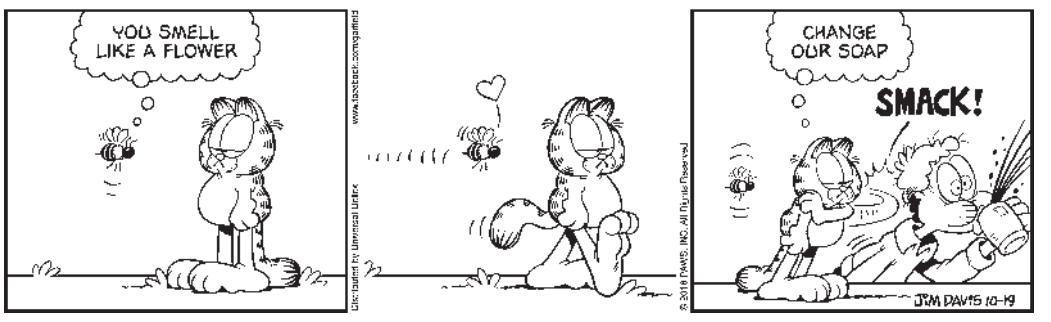
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, I CAN MAKE SHADOWS ON THE WALL. HERE'S A DOG.
HEY, THAT'S GOOD!
HERE'S A SWAN
HMM...THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE SOME BUG-EYED TENTACLED THING...
MOMMM!
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



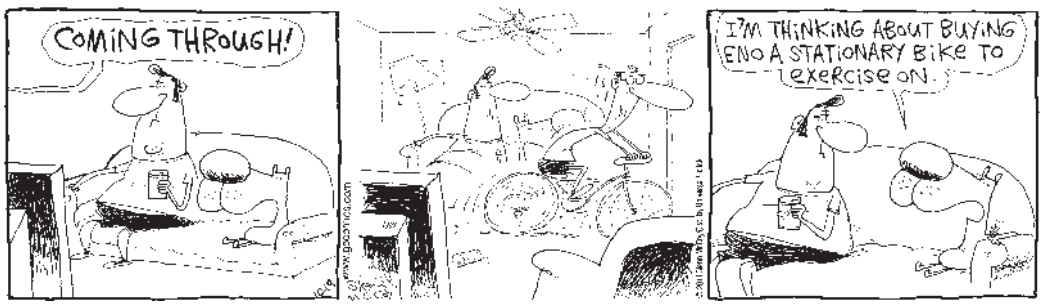
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MR. NEWMAN, I'M YOUR PLUMBER, RON.
I KNOW YOU'RE CAFFEINE-DEPRIVED, BUT CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR PLUMBING SITUATION?
SMMFNG ZZZZ GRRBLEZZ. INVUM FNOGGLE...
DID YOU CATCH THAT?
SOMETHING IS GURGLING THE FNOGGLE, OBVIOUSLY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Satchel
4 "Star Wars" knight
8 NBA's Archibald
12 Author Umberto
13 Paradise
14 Last writes?
15 SSW opposite
16 Corn and lima beans
18 Goose eggs
20 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
21 Actress Moreno
24 Roll with a hole
28 Alternative to plastic
32 Jackknife, for one
33 Flamenco cheer
34 Poe's middle name
36 PBS funder
37 Kite flier's need
39 Utensil made from a gourd shell
41 Ore deposits
43 Sleuth Wolfe
44 Singer Reed
46 Hot rum drink
50 "Candy is dandy" poet
55 Pro vote
56 "Phooey!"
57 Youngster
58 Music booster
59 Celtic tongue
60 Cameo stone
61 Refusals

DOWN

1 Mercedes- —
2 Teen's woe
3 Active one
4 Oscar-winner Lange
5 College URL ender
6 Calendar abbr.
7 Bygone Peruvian
8 Pretty good
9 Lawyers' org.
10 "— the season ..."
11 Ordinal suffix
17 Sphere
19 California fort
22 Body powder
23 "Narnia" lion
25 Actress Gershon
26 Holiday lead-ins
27 Wife of Jacob
28 Batman's hood
29 Hodge-podge
30 Give temporarily
31 Robust
35 Access to a nave
38 Computer key
40 Scary cry
42 Junior
45 Golden Rule word
47 Cannon of film
48 Audition CD
49 Puppy barks
50 Horatian work
51 Dog's warning
52 "— Kapital"
53 Writer Rand
54 Firmament

Solution time: 23 mins.

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E	S	A	U		O	K	R	A		I	T	E
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P	S	A	L	M			A	L	I	O		
R	U	B	E		B	O	X	L	U	N	C	H
I	M	A		M	O	N	E	Y		E	L	Y
G	O	N	D	O	L	A	S		B	O	O	P
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G	R	O	I	N			H	O	P			
I	O	N		I	N	D	O	N	E	S	I	A
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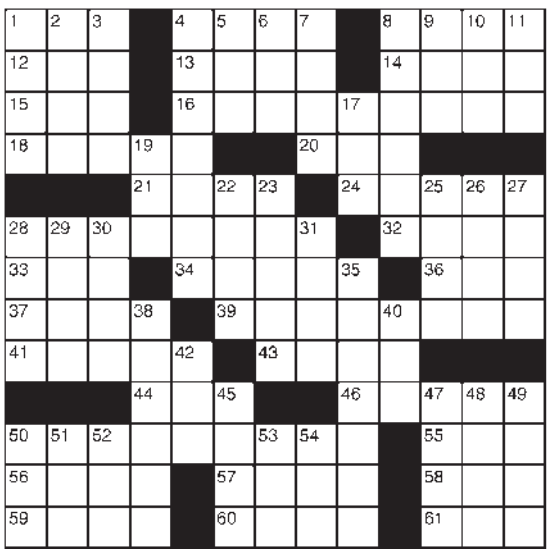
Yesterday's answer 10-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Kattan, 46; Jon Favreau, 50; Ty Pennington, 52; John Lithgow, 71.

Happy Birthday: Look at the big picture and consider your options. You can make any choice you want, so don't let anyone bully you into doing something you don't want to do this year. Make a point to contribute to something that will make you feel good as well as introduce you to new friends and possibilities. Romance is highlighted. Your numbers are 9, 16, 20, 26, 29, 31, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look for an opportunity to use your skills differently this year. Branching out will help you realize your true potential as well as help you set new goals. Use your reasoning skills to help you make important work and partnership decisions. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't waste time on things you know you cannot complete. Stay on top of what you can accomplish and you will hone your skills and receive praise for your achievements. A business trip will result in valuable information and experience. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have plenty of good ideas. Collaborate with someone you find intriguing and you will discover you have a lot in common. A close bond will form quickly, leading to new plans. Travel, networking and communications will lead to good fortune. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Channel your energy into something that will bring you good returns. An exhausting argument will be a waste of time and could end up setting you back. Offer unique solutions and you'll end up in a position of leadership. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make the personal changes that will make you feel good. Raise the bar and challenge yourself mentally. A personal relationship with someone special looks enticing. Romance will brighten your day and lead to positive plans, commitment and promises. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An emotional incident will leave you questioning what you should do next. It's best to listen and make changes based on what you see, not what you feel. Take part in a physical activity to help ease your stress. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Too much of anything will end up holding you back. Streamline what you want to do and you will accomplish far more than you have in the past. Your dedication and discipline will get others to take notice. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep secrets until you feel the time is right to divulge your plans. Examine every aspect of a deal or contract before you sign. Someone you work with will make a change that could influence your position. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Dig deep and you'll become privy to private information that will help you get ahead. Spend some time on the personal improvements that will help you do your job better as well as make you look more professional. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Question any information you receive and go straight to the source for verification. Someone might be trying to make you look bad. A sudden turn of events will leave you in a precarious position if you aren't prepared. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be difficult to stop once you set your sights on what you want to achieve. A financial gain looks promising and is likely to come from an unexpected source. Make a stylistic change and you'll receive compliments. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Discipline will be required if you plan to turn your desires into a reality. You've got what it takes, so don't let anyone tell you that you can't reach your goals. Where there is a will, there is a way. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talented, talkative and versatile. You are determined and impatient.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	8			7			
7			3		2			
			4		5			
			5		8		3	
		4			3		8	
	7				6	5	2	9
9							5	
6							4	
3	5	2	6				1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	2	1	8	3	7	5	9
5	8	1	2	9	7	3	4	6
7	3	9	5	6	4	2	8	1
1	5	8	7	3	2	6	9	4
4	2	7	9	1	6	5	3	8
9	6	3	8	4	5	1	7	2
8	9	5	6	7	1	4	2	3
2	1	4	3	5	8	9	6	7
3	7	6	4	2	9	8	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/19

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SANCTIONS Solution: 7 letters

A	A	T	N	A	R	G	L	E	M	I	G	E	R	R
L	L	R	C	O	G	R	A	B	M	E	N	N	E	A
A	L	O	F	F	I	C	I	A	L	D	O	C	S	T
N	O	P	A	W	A	L	C	P	O	I	O	O	T	I
O	W	P	K	N	A	R	O	R	T	M	Y	U	R	F
I	A	U	T	S	S	S	S	A	M	E	T	R	I	I
T	N	S	U	E	I	E	R	E	E	S	I	A	C	C
A	C	F	N	T	M	E	N	V	E	A	R	G	T	A
N	E	I	I	E	C	D	O	L	G	E	O	E	I	T
R	F	V	N	R	A	R	U	G	A	L	H	M	O	I
E	E	T	A	T	P	R	I	O	I	A	T	E	N	O
T	I	C	I	P	P	V	T	A	R	B	U	N	O	N
N	N	O	A	N	E	U	S	L	R	O	A	T	H	O
I	N	F	I	N	A	N	C	I	A	L	E	A	D	R
T	N	E	M	E	L	P	M	I	M	G	O	M	E	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Homemade

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ITB NO.: ITB17-NMHC-017 (CIF-ROTA)
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "F" VEHICLE (4 X 4 – CREW CAB PICK-UP TRUCK) FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION – ROTA BRANCH)

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/S/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
CORPORATE DIRECTOR, NMHC

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-014
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"2016-2017 CNMI CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULUM A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **OCTOBE 19, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OF BY EMAIL REQUEST TO **arielebaker@becq.gov.mp. QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO arielebaker@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **NOVEMBER 07, 2016.**

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/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
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PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-17

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The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the supply and delivery of Automotive Diesel Oil for its use at the Saipan International Airport/Seaport.

The information, scope of work and other considerations of the proposal is available beginning September 30, 2016 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interest proposers must submit one original and two copies of the sealed proposal. The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., October 19, 2016, to the Office of the Executive Director on the aforementioned location.

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Indians top Blue Jays for 3-0 ALCS lead

AP
Cleveland Indians first baseman Mike Napoli celebrates after their 4-2 win against the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 3 of baseball's American League Championship Series in Toronto, Monday, Oct. 17, 2016.

TORONTO (AP)—Before the Cleveland Indians could even consider giving the ball to Andrew Miller, their bullpen faced a daunting task in the very first inning.

After Trevor Bauer's bloody exit, these remarkable relievers had to stitch together almost an entire game's worth of outs and innings against the Toronto Blue Jays.

Four outs apiece for Dan Otero and Jeff Manship. Three for Zach McAllister. Five each for winner Bryan Shaw and Cody Allen.

After all that, Cleveland finally turned to Miller, who was overpowering again in closing out a 4-2 victory that moved the Indians within one win of their first pennant since 1997.

"If anybody has a hiccup, we probably lose," manager Terry Francona said Monday night after his team took a 3-0 lead in the AL Championship Series. "They all made pitches against some really good hitters."

Jason Kipnis and Mike Napoli homered for the Indians, unbeaten in six playoff games this year. They can complete their second consecutive sweep on Tuesday.

With the bullpen's most impressive feat yet this October, six relievers combined for 25 outs and 128 pitches while limiting Toronto to two runs and seven hits. Miller got four outs for the save.

"The bullpen was unbelievable," Bauer said. "Co-MVP to everybody."

Indians ace Corey Kluber is scheduled to start Game 4 on short rest after Bauer's drone-related finger injury created more upheaval in a rotation that's been short-handed all postseason. Bauer faced four batters before getting pulled when his stitched-up right pinkie began dripping blood.

Enter those stingy relievers, who pitched the Indians to a Division Series sweep over Boston and have them on the verge of another. Cleveland is one win from its sixth World Series appearance.

The hard-hitting Blue Jays have mustered only three runs in the series and have never led.

"We felt like we had an opportunity with some of their lower-leverage guys coming out of the bullpen, but they've got good arms," Toronto outfielder Kevin Pillar said. "It makes it tough when you're facing a different guy every inning, every at-bat."

Kipnis led off the sixth with a home run to right-center field for a 3-2 edge, and Jose Ramirez added an RBI single. Suddenly, the Indians were just a few outs from being able to turn the game over to Allen and Miller.

They appeared in that order, yet another instance in which Francona maneuvered his bullpen unencumbered by rigid roles.

"It was all hands on deck," Miller said.

Allen, who usually closes, entered in the seventh with a runner on and nobody out. A two-out walk to Jose Bautista put the potential tying run on, but Josh Donaldson's liner to left field stayed up long enough for Coco Crisp to make a sliding catch .

Miller fanned three of five batters, giving him 20 strikeouts in nine playoff innings this year. He's allowed five hits over 17 1/3 scoreless innings in his postseason career.

"Tito did a masterful job running that bullpen today," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "They shut us down."

Cleveland has won nine straight dating to the regular season.

Napoli entered 2 for 18 this postseason and in an 0-for-25 slump against right-handers dating to the regular season. He opened the scoring with an RBI double off righty Marcus Stroman in the first—Napoli's long fly popped out of Bautista's glove before both the ball and Bautista bounced off the right-field wall.

Bauer made it through only 21 pitches. He'd been pushed back two days to Game 3 after cutting his finger last week repairing one of the drones he enjoys flying as a hobby. He received stitches and tried to pitch, but couldn't make it far without blood dripping from his hand.

"Trevor got a little leak," Kipnis said. "A couple of us had seen the wound kind of inside and knew it was a possibility of happening. He can deal with the pain, but it's getting something like that to close up. It's hard to do in a short amount of time."

It's yet another injury problem for a Cleveland team that couldn't include ailing starting pitchers Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar on its ALCS roster.

Even with the Indians up 3-0, their rotation for the rest of this series isn't a sure thing. Kluber is set to come back for Game 4 (and presumably a potential Game 7) on short rest, and lightly used rookie Ryan Merritt is lined up for Game 5.

Michael Saunders homered early for Toronto. Ezequiel Carrera tripled leading off the fifth and scored on Ryan Goins' grounder to tie it 2-all.

Kipnis answered with a home run, his first hit of the series.

Stroman took the loss after allowing four runs in 5 1/3 innings.

"We've still got one more to get there, and it's going to be tough," Kipnis said. "We know these guys. Just kind of like the Boston series - we don't want to wait around for them to figure it out. We want to get to them now."

BLOOD WORK

Francona was Curt Schilling's manager with Boston during the famous bloody-sock game against the New York Yankees in the 2004 ALCS.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Francona said Salazar (forearm) was progressing well after throwing to hitters Sunday night.

MILLER TIME

Miller has struck out 20 of 33 batters in these playoffs and 30 of 60 in his postseason career.

EXTRA EFFORT

Cleveland relievers have pitched at least 7 1/3 innings five times since Aug. 18, with the Indians winning four of those games.

UP NEXT

Kluber has never started on three days' rest in his major league career, but Francona said before Monday's game that was the plan for Game 4 if Bauer had problems with his finger. Toronto will start AL ERA leader Aaron Sanchez, who allowed six runs in 5 2/3 innings against Texas in Game 3 of the ALDS.

Less dominant Arrieta vs Hill as NLCS shifts to Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Back in spring training, Joe Maddon cornered Jake Arrieta for a frank conversation about his workload during the upcoming season.

Maddon knew Arrieta would be upset any time he got lifted early, especially after tossing 229 innings for the Chicago Cubs on his way to winning the NL Cy Young Award in 2015.

"But understand it's going to pay off in the latter part of the season," Maddon counseled his ace. "Our intention is to play deeply into October and possibly November this year."

Maddon knew Arrieta might just feel invincible after shouldering the burden of huge innings while compiling a 1.77 ERA. He didn't want the right-hander thinking he could pitch that much every year.

Arrieta bought into Maddon's plan, and it's gotten him to the NL Championship Series with 197 1/3 innings and a 3.10 ERA.

"I'm in a much better place," Arrieta said Monday before the Cubs worked out. "Going through that last year has prepared myself as well as the rest of the guys mentally for a longer run this year, and we've been able to handle the moments mentally a lot better as well as physically."

With the series tied 1-1, Arrieta starts for the Cubs against Los Angeles' Rich Hill on Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium.

Arrieta threw his first career no-hitter in the venerable ballpark on Aug. 30 last year in a game that began shortly after 5 p.m., the same starting time as Game 3. Shadows can creep between the mound and home plate at that hour, which Arrieta believes favors the pitchers.

"I really think it can be difficult to pick up spin," he said. "From a pitching perspective, you want to be aggressive early because of the fact that it is a little more difficult to pick up some rotations and spin on pitches when the shadow's kind of in between and then it starts to creep out to the mound."

In his no-hitter last year, a 2-0 victory, Arrieta struck out 12 and allowed two baserunners—one on an error and the other via walk.

"It's going to be a little different feel, but at the same time, for the most part, it's just about the same lineup," he said. "You try to tackle them accordingly. Use some knowledge that I have from the past to kind of help me tomorrow. But it's just another game on a big stage."

The mound is a place Arrieta feels comfortable. He complemented the Dodgers ground crew for creating a consistent surface that gives him confidence in his positioning and footing.

"When you've been in these situations before, it makes it a lot easier just to kind of take that deep breath, focus on your execution and go from there," he said.

Hill follows Clayton Kershaw as the second straight left-hander to start for the Dodgers in the NLCS, and he draws inspiration from the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

"He's got the stuff, right? You can't argue that," Hill said. "But then there's another level of that competitiveness that comes out where if you're on the other side and you're down on one knee, he's going to put you away. That's something that when I see that, you just never quit, you never give up, you continue to attack."

Hill had a 2.12 ERA during the regular season allowed a combined five runs in seven innings starting Game 2 of the NL Division Series against Washington and returning on short rest in the decisive Game 5.

Now, Hill returns on regular rest and manager Dave Roberts said the finger blisters that have bothered the left-hander this season are not an issue.

"With Richie, it's an inning-by-inning thing, so we'll just keep our fingers crossed," Roberts said. "Because all things being equal, the blister holds, I really, really like our chances."

Hill hasn't thrown more than 93 pitches since being acquired from Oakland in August. The blisters have affected how often he starts and how long he pitches.

The Dodgers will have to find a way to beat the Cubs without Kershaw, who has worked overtime in these playoffs and isn't expected to be available for the next three games in Los Angeles.

Roberts confirmed rookie Julio Urias is set to start Game 4 on Wednesday, followed by Japanese rookie Kenta Maeda, who has allowed seven runs over seven innings in two postseason appearances.

Cardinals climb back to .500, Jets in freefall

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—A dynamic running back and a stifling defense have the Arizona Cardinals back to .500.

Offensive problems galore have the New York Jets in a freefall.

David Johnson ran 58 yards for a touchdown the second time he touched the ball, the first of his three scores in the Cardinals 28-3 victory over the Jets on Monday night.

"An unbelievable job up front," Arizona quarterback Carson Palmer said. "I had a really good view of it. We were man-to-man. We had everybody blocked. He did a great job of setting up his second level blocks, and then he showed that explosion and that speed down the sideline."

Johnson rushed for 111 yards and scored three touchdowns. Arizona (3-3) outgained the Jets on the ground 171-33. New York entered the game second in the NFL in run defense at 68 yards per game.

The Cardinals have won two in a row with a Sunday night home game against Seattle coming up.

New York (1-5) managed only a 39-yard field goal by Nick Folk.

"Holding them to three points was unbelievable," Palmer said. "We were flying around on defense. We were hitting the quarterback. We were stopping the run game, contesting some of the passes in there."

Jets wide receiver Brandon Marshall said his team's performance was "just not good enough."

"All over the place, across the board, just wasn't good enough," he said.

Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick was benched after New York's best drive of the night ended in an interception in the end zone. Geno Smith came on, and his lone series ended in Tyrann Mathieu's first interception of the season .

"You never want to be pulled out of a game in that situation," Fitzpatrick said. "But it's not something I can sit and hang my head. I have to keep a positive outlook, but not in a situation you want to be in."

Smith would like to have his shot at the job, of course, when the Jets play at home against Baltimore on Sunday.

"Every guy who isn't out there wants to be out there," he said. "That is just the nature of the business."

Here are some things to consider from the Cardinals' dominant win over New York.

AP

Arizona Cardinals running back David Johnson (31) crosses the goal line for a touchdown against the New York Jets during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 17, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz.

SHORT GAINS: The Jets took the long passes away that have been Arians' trademark, so the Cardinals were content to go with shorter stuff.

"They made us get rid of the ball quick," Palmer said. "They did a number of things to put us in situations where the ball had to come out quick. I feel like we normally have big chunk plays. They forced us to get rid of it quick and we did a good job capitalizing in those situations."

The Cardinals had a touchdown drive of 11 plays and two more of 14 plays.

RUNNING WILD: A week after he rushed for 157 yards at San Francisco, Johnson was at it again.

After rushing for 111 and catching three passes for 27 yards, Johnson leads the NFL in yards from scrimmage with 833. His eight rushing touchdowns also are most in the league.

PALMER'S HAMSTRING: Palmer, who had missed the previous contest with a concussion, left the game with a strained hamstring after his nine-yard touchdown pass to Michael Floyd in the fourth quarter.

Arians said he didn't think it was anything serious, and Palmer brushed it off.

"Just cramping," he said. "A number of long, long-play drives, just a little dehydration, a little cramp."

OFFENSIVE WOES: Coach Todd Bowles said there is much more to the Jets' offensive woes than the quarterback play.

"We're not scoring. We're not moving the ball," he said. "A whole bunch of things wrong, obviously. The coaches, the players. We're not making plays. We're not putting them in the right position to make plays, obviously by the results. As coaches, we've got to do a better job. As players, we've got to do a better job."

Bowles said the offensive problems Monday night stemmed from a lack of time for Fitzpatrick in the pocket.

"It definitely wasn't Fitz's fault," Bowles said. "I mean, he barely had time to throw. So, anybody we'd have put back there would have had a problem I think."

REPLACEMENT GUARDS: The Cardinals got good performances from Earl Watford and John Wetzel in their first start at guard after injuries sidelined Evan Mathis and Mike Iupati.

Arians was especially pleased with Watford's downfield blocking on Johnson's long TD run.

"Our job is to run the ball and protect," Watford said. "That is what we did today."

Roethlisberger undergoes knee surgery, not out 'long term'

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The cartilage in Ben Roethlisberger's aching left knee is repaired.

And while the Pittsburgh Steelers are optimistic their franchise quarterback will return sooner rather than later after tweaking the knee in the second quarter of a miserable loss in Miami on Sunday, the odds of Roethlisberger being ready for a visit from Tom Brady and the New England Patriots six days removed from the operating table is remote.

Roethlisberger rested at home Monday after undergoing arthroscopic surgery and Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin said the team is confident Roethlisberger won't be out "long term."

But Roethlisberger's teammates began rallying around their backup now facing the most daunting task of his uneven career.

Your turn, Landry Jones. Again.

"I'm going to prepare like I've done in the past and we'll see what happens," Jones said.

Any chance Pittsburgh (4-2) has of hanging in there against the surging Patriots (5-1) depends on it. Taken in the fourth round of the 2013 draft, the former Oklahoma star has made two career starts, both last season.

The Steelers went 1-1 in those games, though the victory comes with an asterisk because he left early with an ankle injury and Roethlisberger came on to guide a blowout of Cleveland.

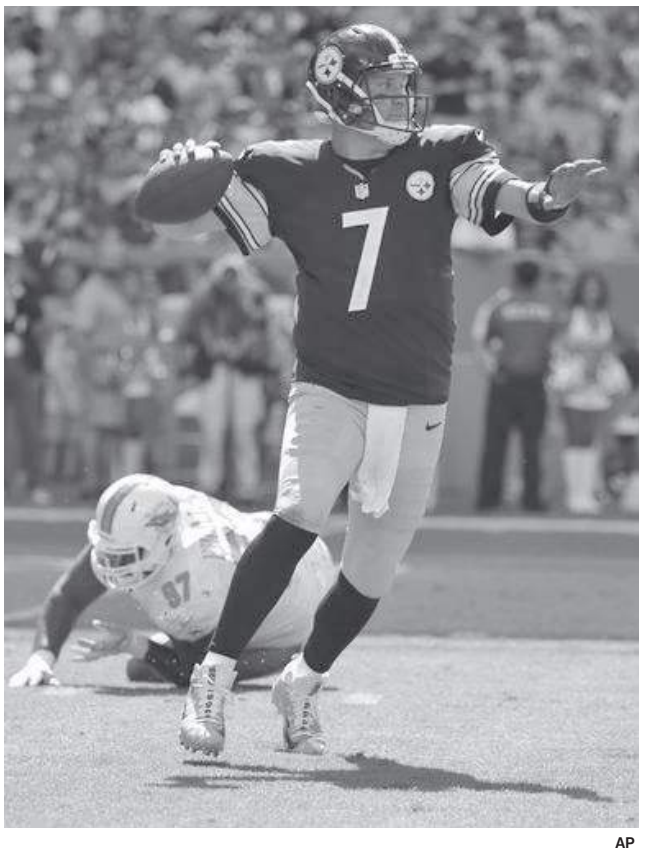
Jones was more effective in relief, leading Pittsburgh by Arizona and Oakland when injuries forced Roethlisberger and Michael Vick out of the lineup.

Given a full week to prepare for the Patriots, Jones believes offensive coordinator Todd Haley doesn't have to make portions of the playbook off limits to thrive.

"I felt like I had it last year," Jones said. "We didn't change much as all of what we were doing. I expect it to be kind of the same this year."

Jones has taken just a handful of snaps this season and threw one incompletion while briefly spelling Roethlisberger in Miami.

He's completed 32 of 56 for 513 yards with three touchdowns and four interceptions in 11 appearances and played extensively with the first team during a preseason in which Roethlisberger made just a token appearance.



AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) looks to pass after escaping a tackle by Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Jordan Phillips (97), during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

"Practice is so different from games, you never know what you're going to get from a guy until you go into the game," Jones said. "Last year I performed pretty well in most of the situations so I feel like I have the confidence of the guys."

If the Steelers want to have any hope of keeping up with the Patriots, they don't really have a choice. Several times over the past three years, Jones has seemingly found his roster spot in jeopardy only to survive and—in very limited instances—thrive.

"This guy is a really good college player and now he has the tools around to get the job done," guard Ramon Foster said. "Me knowing him, he's going to be a guy that makes sure his success is on the front page."

The start also comes at a critical time for Jones, who will be an unrestricted free agent after the season.

With Roethlisberger locked up for the rest of the decade, any chance to be in the mix as a legitimate starter will have to come elsewhere. Not that Jones is concerned with his future at the moment. Figuring out the Patriots is hard enough.

NBA guidelines: Don't focus on just basketball before age 14

NEW YORK (AP)—The best thing young players can do for their basketball careers is not play too much basketball.

They should participate in other sports and delay specializing in just basketball until they are at least 14 years old. They should also take at least one day off from organized competition each week and extended time off at least once a year for proper physical and mental recovery.

Those were among the guidelines announced Monday by the NBA and USA Basketball to begin Jr. NBA Week. The Jr. NBA is the league's youth basketball participation program for boys and girls ages 6-14. The research and recommendations come from panels of medical experts, former players, and coaches and administrators throughout basketball.

They found that athletes who have the most success played multiple sports at a young age and didn't focus on a specific one until late adolescence.

"The idea of sampling and participating in other sports does not mean you're getting behind," said Dr. John DiFiori, NBA director of sports medicine and UCLA team physician. "They actually provide a strong foundation for success in your sport."

LeBron James, perhaps the NBA's best player, played football through his junior year of high school. But those who focus on basketball too soon face some risks that can last well beyond their teen years.

"There's a concern that single sport specialization may contribute to injuries and may also contribute to basically loss of interest in the sport from sort of the repetition of incessant participation in one activity," DiFiori said, adding there are cases of young athletes developing overuse injuries specific to a certain sport.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has made player health one of his biggest concerns, working to create a schedule that allows more time for rest and recovery. The league went further earlier this year by looking into the youth levels.

Working groups were created in the areas of health and wellness, playing standards, and curriculum and instruction. Their guidelines stressed the importance of time away from the court, with recommendations on amount of practice and game time, and even amount of sleep.

"I think sometimes parents and coaches can forget that there are only so many hours in the day and that when you have someone who's going to high school and they're at school from 8 o'clock to 2 o'clock, or to 3 o'clock and then they're at practice for a couple of hours and they need time to study, they need time to eat, they need time to commute back and forth to school and practices, they need time to sleep," DiFiori said. "They need time to recover and it's important that people actually look at that and realize that you can't pack everything into one day and still necessarily have a healthy situation."

The guidelines suggest limiting "high-density competition," such as tournaments that feature multiple games in a short period of time.

DiFiori noted the guidelines apply only to organized competition, saying that individual practice time or pickup games are beneficial. They have been endorsed by numerous youth organizations, athletic apparel companies and supported by the NCAA.

"We're sending a message to families, young athletes, coaches about rethinking how we do things at the youth level," he said.

She said, they said: Derrick Rose case boils down to consent

AP

In this Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016, file photo, New York Knicks basketball player Derrick Rose arrives at U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The lawsuit alleging NBA star Derrick Rose and his friends raped an incapacitated woman is all about consent.

Jurors who return to court Tuesday for the civil trial will have to determine whether the woman agreed to sex or was too incapacitated to do so.

Experts say consent is at the center of evolving rape and sexual assault laws, but there's no commonly accepted definition.

Rebecca O'Connor of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network says the concept is murky and complicated.

States such as California have decided consent can be withdrawn during sex and that a victim can be too incapacitated to agree to the act.

Rose and two friends say the woman seemed sober and she willingly participated in sex and even initiated acts earlier in the night.

NAPU

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team are Isabel Ito, Julianna Hanson, Rika Diaz, Jewel Cubangbang, Dhalian Salas, Camille Muna, Rachel Tudela, Leisha Guerrero Mendiola, and Mayiah Duenas. Jason Tarkong is the teams' coach.

The Napu delegation will leave Saipan for Palau this morning, as the tournament will run from Oct. 21 to 23 in the waters off Meyuns Ramp in Koror.

The Napu youth paddlers had their last training session for sprints yesterday and the long-distance practice race last weekend. They also scheduled an afternoon training session in Palau tomorrow to get the feel of the course. Both of its junior girls and boys squads will compete in the 500m, 1,500m, and long distance races.

The club's 18 paddlers are among the more than 70 CNMI delegates to the Micro Cup—the biggest that the Commonwealth is sending to the off-island tournament. Saipan Paddling Club, Marianas Outrigger Club, Marianas Pacific Paddler, and Hoe Lokahi are the other CNMI squads that will participate in the competition and will be up against the host, Guam, Federated States of Micronesian, Japan, and Hong Kong.

SPC is fielding its men's, women's, and youth co-ed teams in the three-day event, while MPP and MOC will only have a women's and men's crew, respectively. Hoe Lokahi has two teams (men's and women's).

The Micro Cup 2016 will feature open, mixed masters, and mixed juniors in the 500m and 1,500m sprints (with turns). In the long distance races, the juniors will cover 10K, while the women's and men's will negotiate 15K and 20K courses, respectively. There is also a one-man canoe 500m race.

FAVORED

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looked back to gain its third win in five games. Kaden Church and Blake Mister registered two goals apiece for Paire, while Jamin Elliot and George Shokarev made one each.

Lolobeyong Benito had a pair, while Justine Charles Achas hit the other goal for Matansa, which fell to a 1-0-4 record for fifth place in the six-team field.

In the third tiff, Kanoa hammered MP United, 6-1, for its fourth victory and first at the start of the second round.

Ian Karl Maniago delivered the win for Kanoa as he recorded four goals. Sebastien Manabat logged the two other shots for Kanoa, while Go Sekiguchi avoided an MP United (2-0-3) shutout with his goal in the 48th minute.

BOYS U17
MP United 2, TanHoldings 1

MP United avenged its first round loss to erstwhile leader TanHoldings in the second game in the division.

Keaanu Diaz made the two goals for MP United with the go-ahead posted in the 55th minute. His other goal came in the seventh minute, while TanHoldings also scored its lone goal in the first half—thanks to a shot from Joshua Galarion in the 10th.

TanHoldings absorbed its first loss this season and dropped to second place with its 3-1-1 mark. MP United has the same record, but is ranked third with its lower goal difference (6). MP United has tallied 12 goals and given up 6, while TanHoldings has earned 14 and allowed 5 for a goal difference of nine.

Matansa 8, Paire 0

Matansa took the solo lead after whipping Paire in the other division game.

Matansa holds a field-best 3-2-0 card, gaining its third win after Jun Sik Kim and Terrence Belcher each had hat-tricks against Paire. Jether Yobech and Mark Norita logged the two other goals for Matansa.

Kim and Belcher traded shots for Matansa with the latter firing all his three goals in the first half to lift their team to a commanding 5-0 halftime lead. Yobech and Norita then earned the first two goals for Matansa in the second half, while Kim recorded the team's last to duplicate Belcher's total output.

PATRIOTS

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1-5 mark.

The Patriots joined the Chinese Association and Talaabwogh at the bottom half of the team ranking after a twin-digit winning margin against the latter.

The Patriots gained full control of their match against Talaabwogh at the start of the second half, turning a 38-30 halftime lead to a 66-45 spread, going into the fourth canto. Mike Arciaga, Jester Kintaro, and Leo Galarse teamed up in the breakaway, combining for 20 of their 28 markers in the pivotal quarter. Kintaro and Galarse scored 7 points each, while Arciaga had 6.

The 19-point lead after the third period gave the Patriots enough cushion against the one-man show of Norita for Talaabwogh. Norita drilled 24 of Talaabwogh's 28 points in the fourth quarter and the team's last 22 markers. The Talaabwogh gunner knocked in six straight triples in the final frame.

Monday Game

Talaabwogh Stars 74 — Norita 25, F. Lifoifoi 7, Sunumai 7, Arthur 6, Kani 6, J. Lifoifoi 6, Evangelista 5, Lieot 4, Sulap 4, Omar 2.

Chinese Association 66 — Tekopua 20, Chen 16, Zhang 10, Xiao 6, Jia 5, Li 5, Liu 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-17, 45-32, 68-45, 74-66.

Friday Game

Patriots 83 — Arciaga 16, Kintaro 15, Aranda 14, Espinosa 13, Galarse 9, Rabasto 4.

Talaabwogh Stars 73 — Norita 32, J. Lifoifoi 12, Arthur 6, Kani 6, Evangelist 5, Sunumai 4, Lieto 2, F. Lifoifoi 2, M. Aguon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 38-30, 66-45, 83-73.

2016 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 2

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Elementary school runners head out to the course during the second leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics' 2016 All Schools Cross Country Series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Four runners make their way to the finish line.

Soleil Lamar keeps her pace going into the last few meters of the one-lap race.

Kean Helgan and Takeru Jim are in a close race to the finish line.

Saipan Community School, left, and San Vicente Elementary School runners near completion of the one-mile race.

Coume Kaga is on her way to a first place finish overall in the elementary school division race.

Phoenix Gross sprints to the finish line, while a runner from Agape Christian School slows down.

Three runners head to the finish line.

Bullpen great again, Indians top Blue Jays for 3-0 ALCS lead

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cardinals climb back to .500, Jets in freefall

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Patriots, Talaabwogh snap skids

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The San Antonio Patriots' Michael Espinosa, second left, grabs the rebound after a miss from his teammate during the second quarter of their game in the MIBF caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Patriots are back on track following an 83-73 win over the Talaabwogh Stars in the second game in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Patriots went 2-0, but dropped their next two games before ending their skid with a 10-point victory over Talaabwogh. The Tanapag-based Talaabwogh was handed its fifth loss in as many games, but managed to finally make it to the win column after a 74-66 triumph over the Chinese Association (0-5) last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

Ian Norita, after exploding for 32 points on a losing effort against the Patriots last weekend, still led Talaabwogh in scoring, firing 25 in their 8-point win over the Chinese Association.

Norita knocked in 15 of his total production in the first quarter to lift Talaabwogh to a 23-17 advantage. The lead was stretched to double figures at the end of the second and third quarters as Norita drew enough support from his teammates.

The Chinese Association, behind Mii Tekopua, brought the deficit down to single digits, but still fell short in the end to remain at the bottom of the team standings in the nine-squad field. Talaabwogh moved up a bit in the ladder (eighth place) with it

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Napu names Palau-bound youth teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club has named the members of its girls and boys U19 teams that will compete in the Micro Cup 2016 in Palau this weekend.

Napu president Ponce Rasa, in an email to *Saipan Tribune* last Monday, said the club's boys junior squad is made of eight paddlers. The list includes Ryan Aguon, Brandon Cabrera, Kyle Reyes, Sammy Litulumar, Leon Laniyo, Hekido Helgen, Daven Hocog, and Raven Igisaiar. Their girls crew, on the other hand, has 10 members with Daydra Hocog leading the roster. Completing the

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Napu youth paddlers head back to shore after a warm-up race earlier this month at Kilili Beach. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Favored teams deliver in youth league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire Football Club's Kaden Church, second left, faces three Matansa FC defenders during the second half of their boys U14 division game in the NMIFA youth fall league last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Top 3 squads in the team standings in the boys U14 division of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League lived up to expectations after dominating their respective opponents last Saturday at the Kobleville Elementary School Field.

In the first game, division leader TanHoldings FC crushed Shirley's FC, 13-1. The winning squad now has a 5-0-0 win-draw-loss record to pace Kanoa (4-0-1) and Paire (3-0-2), which also prevailed in the Week 5 matches.

Taka Borja led TanHoldings in its fifth victory as he scored a hat-trick against the hapless Shirley's crew. His three goals came in succession in the second half. Kirro Batino and John Michael Rojas contributed two goals apiece, while Reginals Pascual, Aloy Zeus Angeles, Mark Esalan, Joshua Mendez, Ichiro Borja, and Thaphi Austria added one each.

Shirley's lone goal was courtesy of Romel Mendoza and the team has yet to win a single game in its first five assignments.

In the second match in the division, Paire waltzed past Matansa, 6-3.

Paire opened with a 4-1 halftime edge and never

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